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Algeria 450 Drs. Iron 115 Reich. Orient 1,000 Reich.  
Armenia 225. Arsen 165. 2,500. Foreign 1,200 Reich.  
Bahrain 100. Bahrain 100. 100 Reich.  
Belgium 500. Belgium 500 Reich. 75 P.  
C. 115. Cyprus 500 Reich. 750 P.  
C. 250. Cyprus 500 Reich 125 Reich.  
Denmark 10,000 Dkr. Denmark 1,000 Dkr. 500 Reich.  
Egypt 275. Luxembourg 50 L.P. Switzerland 2,500 Reich.  
Finland 100. Finland 100 Reich.  
France 100. France 100 Reich. 74 1,000 Reich.  
Germany 2,200 D.M. Netherlands 2,000 P. L.L.E. 800 Reich.  
Great Britain 100 P. Norway 6,000 NOK. U.S. 100 P. 500 Reich.  
Greece 100. Nigeria 150 Naira. Venezuela 1,250 Reich.

ESTABLISHED 1887

## 1,500 Feared Dead in Philippine Disaster

By Gregg Jones

Washington Times Service

MANILA — Philippine Navy ships confined an apparently futile search late Monday for more than 1,500 passengers and crew members of a ferry that sank after a fiery collision with an oil tanker Sunday night in a well-used shipping channel.

The sinking was the worst peace-time shipping disaster since the Titanic and, depending on the final toll, perhaps the worst ever.

It occurred about 10 P.M. Sunday when a small tanker, the MT Victor, loaded with 8,800 barrels of oil, collided with the MV Dona Paz, an interisland ferry with 1,493 Manila-bound passengers officially listed, the Coast Guard said.

The vessels were between Mindoro and Marinduque islands, about 110 miles (180 kilometers) south of Manila.

Upon impact, the tanker ruptured and the oil exploded into flames, which quickly spread to the



on reports from some survivors that the ferry was packed with more than 3,000 passengers, twice as many as the vessel was licensed to carry.

Survivors said the three-deck ship was so damaged that four people were sharing one-person cots and the passageways and decks were crammed with passengers.

Interisland ferries are the cheapest means of transport in the Philippines archipelago, and the usually crowded vessels become even more so during the holidays.

One survivor, Almarino Balandra, said that minutes before the collision he had gone below deck to the ferry's dining hall but it was too crowded so he returned to the upper deck. He said he felt a tremendous impact, and the ship exploded in flames.

"I saw many people, some of them screaming," he said. As flames engulfed the ship, he jumped overboard, he said.

"When I jumped into the water, ferry and the surrounding waters, survivors said.

A passenger ship, the Don Claudio, took 26 survivors, including two of the tanker's 13 crewmen, to Manila. Most had serious burns from the flaming oil on the water around the ships. Three U.S. Air Force helicopters searched for survivors but found none.

Authorities would not comment

hours after the disaster, there were no signs of survivors, the authorities said.

Most of the travelers were on their way to visit relatives for Christmas, which is perhaps the most important holiday of the year in the predominantly Catholic Philippines.

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"When I jumped into the water,

See FERRY, Page 24

## Afghan Guerrillas Step Up the Pressure

By Anthony Davis

Washington Post Service

KORAN, Afghanistan — As resistance fighters burst into the Afghan government's military police garrison here, a rebel rifle bullet smashed into the chest of the garrison commander, sending him sprawling in death across his own

Around him lay the wreckage of penty officialdom. Files, ledgers and papers were strewn across the floor; chairs were overturned and cabinets smashed open. Torn and trampled underfoot were propaganda posters and pamphlets hailing a brave socialist future for an Afghanistan that he, for one, would never see.

The expression frozen on the man's face seemed less one of pain than of surprise at how the mujahidin, or Islamic "holy warriors," had swept quickly across this base in a rugged, strategic valley of Afghanistan's northeast. Most of the government forces surrendered within an hour and 40 minutes.

The attack, witnessed during a three-month trip through a

## New Soviet Offer on Pullout

By David K. Shipley

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A senior State Department official disclosed Monday that during the summit meeting earlier this month, Mikhail S. Gorbachev made a new offer to have Soviet troops refrain from offensive combat operations during any period of their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Michael H. Armacost, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, called the Soviet leader's offer "positive" and portrayed it as a step toward a formula for withdrawal that the United States would consider acceptable. Other unresolved issues include the length of

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eastern Afghanistan that ended two weeks ago, was one of a string of victories that appears to mark significant developments in the war between the resistance, backed by mainly U.S. and Saudi Arabian aid, and the Soviet Army and troops of the Communist government in Kabul. The Soviet forces invaded this country on Christmas eight years ago in a move that jolted the region, the Islamic world and superpower relations.

The fall of Koran was the latest in a string of little-reported successes over the past two years by mujahidin of the Jamiat-i Islami

(one of seven parties in the main resistance alliance based in Pakistan) and led by the party's foremost commander in northern Afghanistan, Ahmed Shah Massoud, 35, a guerrilla strategist who rose to prominence in the bitterly contested Panjshir Valley northeast of Kabul.

In most of Afghanistan, the guerrillas' attacks simply harass and inflict losses on Soviet and Afghan government posts. But Mr. Massoud has managed to capture important bases.

An avowed Islamic revolutionary from his student days, but with a reputation for pragmatism and flexibility, the guerrilla chief in an interview expressed skepticism, despite diplomatic rumors of such a development, about the likelihood of a Soviet withdrawal that would permit genuine Afghan self-determination.

He envisioned a protracted, popular-based guerrilla war, in which fighters based in rural areas surround and strangle an urban-based enemy. His idea appeared to draw

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the mujahidin are becoming more effective militarily in this part of the country, with skilled military commanders using more unified forces. The rebels are strengthening and expanding administrative structures in areas where they have expanded their control over terrain.

The fall of Koran was the latest in a string of little-reported successes over the past two years by mujahidin of the Jamiat-i Islami

that sovereignty over the Gaza Strip poses for Israel. Neither Egypt nor Jordan claims the territory, and Israel fears that if it were to relinquish control, Gaza could become a base for the Palestine Liberation Organization, which could use it to jeopardize Israeli security.

This is unprecedented, in that it's the first time the Israeli Arabs are following the Arabs in the territories," said Yehuda Litani, an Arab affairs specialist at The Jerusalem Post. "We've had clashes today in places where they have never been — Jaffa, Abu Ghosh, these places are very quiet."

"This is unprecedented, in that it's the first time the Israeli Arabs are following the Arabs in the territories," said Yehuda Litani, an Arab affairs specialist at The Jerusalem Post. "We've had clashes today in places where they have never been — Jaffa, Abu Ghosh, these places are very quiet."

As the day began in the Israeli Arab town of Nazareth, Arab youths their heads swathed in checkered Arab headscarves, snuffed onions to cut the effect of tear gas and hurled rocks at the police, just like their counterparts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The biggest confrontation in a day when there were incidents, mostly rock throwing, scattered over a wide area came on Monday afternoon when about 3,000 Israeli Arab residents of Umm el-Fahem marched to block the main highway.

He worked as an auto-body repairman in Israel, the sole support of his mother, three brothers, six sisters, his wife and infant son. He wore the beard of an Islamic fundi-

See GAZA, Page 4

## Kiosk

### 10 Republicans Back Arms Pact

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ten Republican senators pledged their support of the U.S.-Soviet arms treaty at a White House meeting Monday and Bob Dole of Kansas, the Senate Republican leader, called the pledges "a big step in guaranteeing a big Republican vote for the treaty."

Mr. Dole, who announced his support for the medium-range missile treaty on Thursday, had accompanied the Republicans to the White House. He said senators congratulated President Ronald Reagan for achieving the accord and gave him "support for it in principle."

Mr. Dole said the senators expressed "varying views" on the treaty and "but wanted to play a constructive role in the Senate ratification process."



### King Hussein Is Welcomed in the Soviet Union

King Hussein of Jordan and President Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union reviewing a Soviet honor guard Monday after the king arrived in Moscow on an official visit. King Hussein was scheduled to meet Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, on Tuesday and was expected to urge the Kremlin to support an international arms embargo against Iran. He was hailed by the Communist Party newspaper Pravda on Monday as an "advocate of greater unity of Arab states."

## La Dictée: The Magnificent Obsession of French Education

By Stanley Meisler

Los Angeles Times Service

PARIS — Once a day, children in French elementary schools take the dictée, several nerve-racking, sometimes dreaded minutes in which they must write down exactly what their teacher dictates. Nothing reveals all that is unique in the French educational system better than the dictée.

It tests spelling and grammar, and, as usually graded, it demands near perfection. A few errors mean failure, even a zero. It sometimes seems that nothing is more important in French education.

"I remember a French teacher," a Belgian journalist said recently, "who told us that until we learned to put a comma in the right place, we would not understand mathematics."

Americans, of course, have spelling bees. The spelling bee, however, bears about as much resemblance to the dictée as chopped liver does to foie gras. A spelling bee is not as intricate, fearsome or significant.

Françoise Giroud, a novelist, journalist and former French government minister, participated recently as a special

guest in the televised finals of the national dictée contest. She made seven and a few errors in 15 complex sentences. Minor mistakes, such as a wrong accent, count as half an error.

"I am ashamed," she said.

The reader of the dictée, Bernard Pivot, a journalist and host of the popular literary television show "Apostrophes," tried to console her. He said anyone who made fewer than 10 mistakes had triumphed.

"Anytime I make more than five errors than last year's," she said, "I am ashamed."

Few American writers would feel such shame about making spelling or grammar errors. Ernest Hemingway spent a lifetime misspelling, filling his manuscripts with such glaring mistakes as apotropaic and volume.

The last thing I remember about English in high school," he once wrote, "was a big controversy on whether it was already or not ready. How did it ever come out?"

The dictée contest, organized by Mr. Pivot three years ago, generates enormous excitement in France. In 1987, there were 36,414 entrants. After a series

of qualifying rounds, the field was narrowed to 122 finalists. Floating on a boat in the Seine, they listened to Mr. Pivot dictate. Celebrities such as Ms. Giroud, Laurent Fignon, a bicyclist and racing star, and Isidre de la Fressange, Chanel's premier model, took the test. So did most of the French journalists covering the event.

Mr. Pivot, before he began to read, told the contestants: "This dictée is easier than last year's. But that does not mean it is angelic."

Seven million people, many with pen and paper in hand, watched the dictée on television. Eight million tuned in several hours later to see the winner, Juliette Gobillard, 38, announced and the correct dictée transcript displayed. The winner, a government price control inspector from the Norman port of Caen, made no mistakes.

Mr. Pivot, editor of the literary magazine *Lié*, once tried to explain the dictée's hold on the French imagination. He said the French attachment was fueled by nostalgia for "the happiness and torments of childhood," by a need to play

games and by "the love for our language."

"Despite the wounds that we inflict on it every day," Mr. Pivot wrote, "the language, the French language, remains in our eyes a precious good, a heritage to defend, a living body of unending astonishment whose vagaries, exceptions to the rules and inexpressible richness never cease to amuse us."

Foreign educators, however, usually regard the dictée with suspicion, for it is heavily dependent on memorization and is a passive, noncreative exercise for the student. The dictée embodies many of the wrongs that foreigners see in French education, such as memorization, lack of creativity and overemphasis on literary matters.

Moreover, the dictée may seem so awesome and daunting an exercise to some pupils that they give up in the face of their continual failure. France has a schooled population that, in general, speaks French with great precision. But a 1984 government report estimated that there may be 300,000 to 400,000 French-born, French-educated adult illiterates. Although the Académie Française proclaimed in 1694 that good spelling is what distinguishes men of letters from the ignorant and from simple women," the dictée appears not to have entered French education until the early 19th century. During that century, education was transformed from the elitist system of prerevolutionary times into a system that reached more of the general population.

The broadening of education was accompanied by a campaign to standardize grammar and spelling, perhaps to ensure that the language would not somehow be weakened as more and more French citizens attended school.

The first report use of the dictée was under Napoleon Bonaparte, when applicants to universities were asked to take such an examination. In 1822, a law was passed requiring civil servants to have a proficiency in spelling. This evidently pressured the school system to ensure that graduates could spell. By the 1840s, the dictée had entered elementary schools and had become part of the French way of life.

## Loser Offers Apologies to Korea Voters

By Fred Hiatt

Washington Post Service

SEOUL — The defeated opposition leader Kim Da Jung apologized Monday to the South Korean people, saying that his inability to form a common front with a rival opposition leader, Kim Young Sam, allowed the ruling party to retain power in last week's election.

The apology represented an about-face for Mr. Kim, who earlier said that government fraud was so widespread that even a unified opposition candidate would have lost.

In advertisements published on the front pages of afternoon dailies, he continued to decry what he called government cheating and said the division of anti-government forces also contributed to their loss.

"I sincerely apologize and realize that my responsibility is so great that I cannot bear it," Mr. Kim said in the advertisement. "The cause for the failure to defeat the regime lay in the failure to achieve a single candidacy."

The ruling party candidate, Roh Tae Woo, was elected with 36.6 percent of the vote in South Korea's first election in 16 years. He is scheduled to succeed President Chun Doo Hwan Feb. 25. The two Kims together polled 55 percent; with Kim Da Jung third behind Mr. Roh and Kim Young Sam.

Both Kims initially blamed their loss on government manipulation and urged rejection of the results. Many people, including opposition supporters, said they felt angry that the Kims refused to accept responsibility after breaking their promise to field a single candidate.

Kim Young Sam apologized last

See KIM, Page 4



An Israeli soldier moving away from Palestinians on Monday at a protest march in Gaza.

## The Angry Young Men of Gaza

Having Grown Up Under Israeli Rule, the 'Shebab' Lash Out

By John Kifner

New York Times Service

BUREJ, Israeli-Occupied Gaza Strip — The "shebab," hot-eyed, desperate, angry young men, were gathered outside the tiny cinder-block dwelling — it would be hard to call it a house — mourning Abdul Salam Fitehah, who had been shot to death by the Israeli Army.

Shebab in formal Arabic means "youths," but in the language of the street, it translates roughly as the guys."

The word is on everybody's lips in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank these days. It is the Palestinian youngsters, the shebab,

## U.S.-Soviet Missile Treaty Produces Belgian Fallout

By Edward Cody  
Washington Post Service

**FLORENNES, Belgium** — Construction on a 650-unit U.S. housing project has suddenly come to a halt. Mayor Louis Timmermans will have to build the new sewers out of his municipal budget.

Renaud Henet, who runs Le Manhanttan Cafe, said it looks like the U.S. Air Force personnel who stopped in regularly for a drink will start to leave just as they were starting to learn a little French.

Claudine Constant, who has rented her apartment to six American families in a row, refuses to believe the U.S. military will pull out of this bleak little town in the southern Belgian Ardennes region, insisting that something new is bound to come along to keep them and their rent dollars around.

Under terms of the U.S.-Soviet nuclear disarmament treaty signed Dec. 8 in Washington, however, the Tomahawk cruise missiles assigned to the 1,300-



man 485th Tactical Missile Wing at Florennes Air Base will have to be eliminated over the next three years.

The treaty, which will shut down missile sites in four other Western European countries as well, has been hailed as a major step in arms control and a reward for the decision to deploy cruise missiles in Western Europe despite objections from peace organizations.

Florennes has had more than its share of demonstrations since the first 16 missiles arrived here in

the spring of 1985, the initial step in Belgium's planned total deployment of 48 by 1990.

But as the process reaches its culmination and the missiles are slated for destruction, the 4,000 residents of this farming town seem far removed from the triumphant diplomacy of Washington or the grand debates of Brussels.

In Florennes, where unemployment is running at 24 percent and the regional economy is flagging, people are thinking instead about lost income.

"We thought the missile deployment would maybe get this region moving again," Mr. Henet said. "Now people say the Americans are going to leave. Some people are not going to have it so good any more."

A lot of money was allocated for that, and it made things flow. But I guess that's going to stop now."

Mr. Timmermans calculated that 110 local people could lose their jobs if the base is eliminated entirely, rather than being altered

for another use. But the overall economic repercussions will be much wider, he said.

"That guy who just knocked on the door," he gestured toward the entrance to his town hall office, "he runs a gasoline station. Ask him how much he sells to the military. The town was founded by medieval lords as a fortified

stronghold.

The air base, which also houses Belgian Air Force Mirage-5s, was begun by Germany in 1942. It was taken by the U.S. Army in 1944 and P-51 Lightnings took off from here to provide air cover during the Battle of the Bulge.

The Belgian military took it over in 1947. But troops of other NATO nations have been stationed here periodically since then and local residents have grown used to the whine of fighters.

"We have always had foreign troops here — German, French, English, American," Mr. Timmermans said. "It was the Germans who built the base in the first place."

## British Plan To Remain In a Science Unit, CERN

By Walter Sullivan  
New York Times Service

**NEW YORK** — What many regard as Europe's most effective scientific collaboration, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, known by the French acronym CERN, has survived a critical test after Britain conditionally agreed to remain a member.

The organization, which was formed after World War II and is based near Geneva, is made up of 14 European countries. Britain provides 16 percent of its budget.

The British said Sunday that they would remain in the organization if changes recommended by a special CERN commission, headed by the French physicist Anatole Abramag, were adopted.

According to CERN officials, the commission noted the "reounding success" of research efforts in the organization, but found the enterprise "doomed to inefficiency" if it was not revitalized.

It recommended that the organization streamline operations of the center, let go 300 of its staff of 3,500 people over the next five years and replace some of them with younger people. The estimated budget saving would be from 5 to 10 percent.

The officials said, however, that the committee proposed that the staff be changed through a process of attrition rather than dismissal.

The organization's budget is about \$600 million. Each country is also expected to provide for financial support of its own researchers.

In meetings last week, the CERN Council, made up of representatives from all member nations, considered the recommendations of the Abramag commission.

In other action, the CERN Council nominated Dr. Carlo Rubbia to be the director-general, starting a year from January. In 1984, Dr. Rubbia shared a Nobel Prize with Dr. Simon van der Meer of the Netherlands for the discovery of three subatomic particles, the positive and negatively charged W particles and their electrically neutral cousin, the Z particle. The long-sought particles unite two of the fundamental forces of nature, the electromagnetic and the so-called weak force, which accounts for some form of radiation.

Dr. Rubbia, an Italian, is on the faculty of Harvard University. The current director-general is Herwig Schopper, a West German.

The CERN Council also named Jose Rembser of West Germany as its president, to take office next month. Mr. Rembser is director-general of basic research and coordinator of international cooperation at the Ministry of Research and Technology in Bonn.

Pressure for a British withdrawal from the organization stemmed from a 1985 report by a committee headed by Sir John C. Kendrew, who shared a Nobel Prize in 1962 for his discovery of the molecular structure of the proteins myoglobin and hemoglobin.

That report said CERN was receiving an inordinate amount of money from Britain's Science and Engineering Research Council.

The Kendrew committee said Britain should withdraw from the organization unless its contribution was reduced by 25 percent for the 1991-92 budget.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Chemical Fog Afflicts 1,000 Egyptians

**ALEXANDRIA, Egypt** (Reuters) — About 1,000 soldiers and civilians were taken to hospitals on Monday after an accident at an army camp released clouds of suffocating fog normally used for smoke screens, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said.

He said that a "spontaneous interaction of a chemical powder stored in the camp" created the pall of smoke, which caused thousands to be evacuated from nearby homes. He did not specify the type of powder but said it was "used by armies as a smoke screen to camouflage movements."

The police said at least 400 soldiers were overcome by smoke and taken to hospital. Witnesses said ambulances and buses took hundreds of civilians out of the area. Schools were closed. No deaths have been reported.

### Felber Named Swiss Foreign Minister

**BERN** — Rene Felber, 54, a Socialist, was named foreign minister of Switzerland on Monday, a government spokesman said. He was head of the finance department of the Canton of Neuchâtel until Dec. 9, he was elected to the seven-member Federal Executive.

He succeeded Pierre Aubert, who held the post for 10 years. A second newcomer to the cabinet, Adolf Ogi, was named transport minister. He succeeded Leon Schmidli, who had held the post since 1980.

The other ministries did not change hands. The country's four largest parties have been the members of government coalition since 1959, controlling large majorities in the 264-seat federal assembly, which combines both houses of Parliament. In the general elections last October, they won an aggregate 201 seats.

### Iran Reports 1,000 Iraqi Casualties

**NICOSIA (Reuters)** — Iran said its forces killed or wounded 1,000 Iraqi troops on Monday in an attack on the south-central fronts.

The Iranian press agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the Iranians ambushed Iraqi positions on the east bank of Douraj River in the Fakkeh area in a "vicious blitz" early Monday. It said that Iranian forces seized 12 square miles (30 square kilometers) of Iranian territory from the Iraqis and that at least 1,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded or drowned in the river when five Iraqi counterattacks were beaten back.

It was the second attack since Saturday night by Iran, which is reported to be preparing for a major offensive.

### Paraguayan Is Freed After 25 Years

**ASUNCION, Paraguay** (AP) — Napoleon Ortega, 63, one of Latin America's longest-held political prisoners, has been freed after serving a 25-year sentence, 18 years of which he spent in solitary confinement in a cell measuring about three feet by six feet (one meter by two meters).

The Human Rights Commission of Paraguay had long lobbied for his release, saying the former captain had been tortured and denied his civil rights. Mr. Ortega completed his sentence Thursday. He was released Sunday and placed under police supervision for 30 days in a small hotel in San Estanislao, a remote town northwest of Asuncion.

### For the Record

**BRITAIN** and the Soviet Union formally agreed Monday on verification procedures for removing intermediate-range nuclear weapons from British soil under the U.S.-Soviet treaty to abolish such weapons. A similar U.S.-British agreement was signed Dec. 11. (Reuters)

**PRESIDENT** Major General Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria dropped Foreign Minister Bolaji Akinyemi from his cabinet Monday in a reshuffle affecting six ministries, an official statement said. Mr. Akinyemi was replaced by Brigadier Idris Nwachukwu, who had been labor minister. The finance and national planning ministries were merged under Finance Minister Chu Okonwu. (Reuters)

## TRAVEL UPDATE

### Airline Guide Rates Fares and Service

**WASHINGTON** (AP) — A guide by the Consumer Federation of America gives air travelers information ranging from comparisons on fares and airline performance to information on bar hours at major airports and how much it costs to get to the center of the city.

The guide, "How to Fly: The Consumer Federation of America's Airline Survival Guide," can be purchased for \$7.95 plus \$1 for postage and handling from the federation at 1424 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

The 208-page guide compares fares charged by 18 airlines along 17 popular routes; gives airlines a "service index" based on how many complaints are lodged with the Transportation Department; provides direct airline-to-airline fare comparisons in certain markets; and gives brief profiles of 18 carriers and 36 major airports.

### Winter Running Late in Switzerland

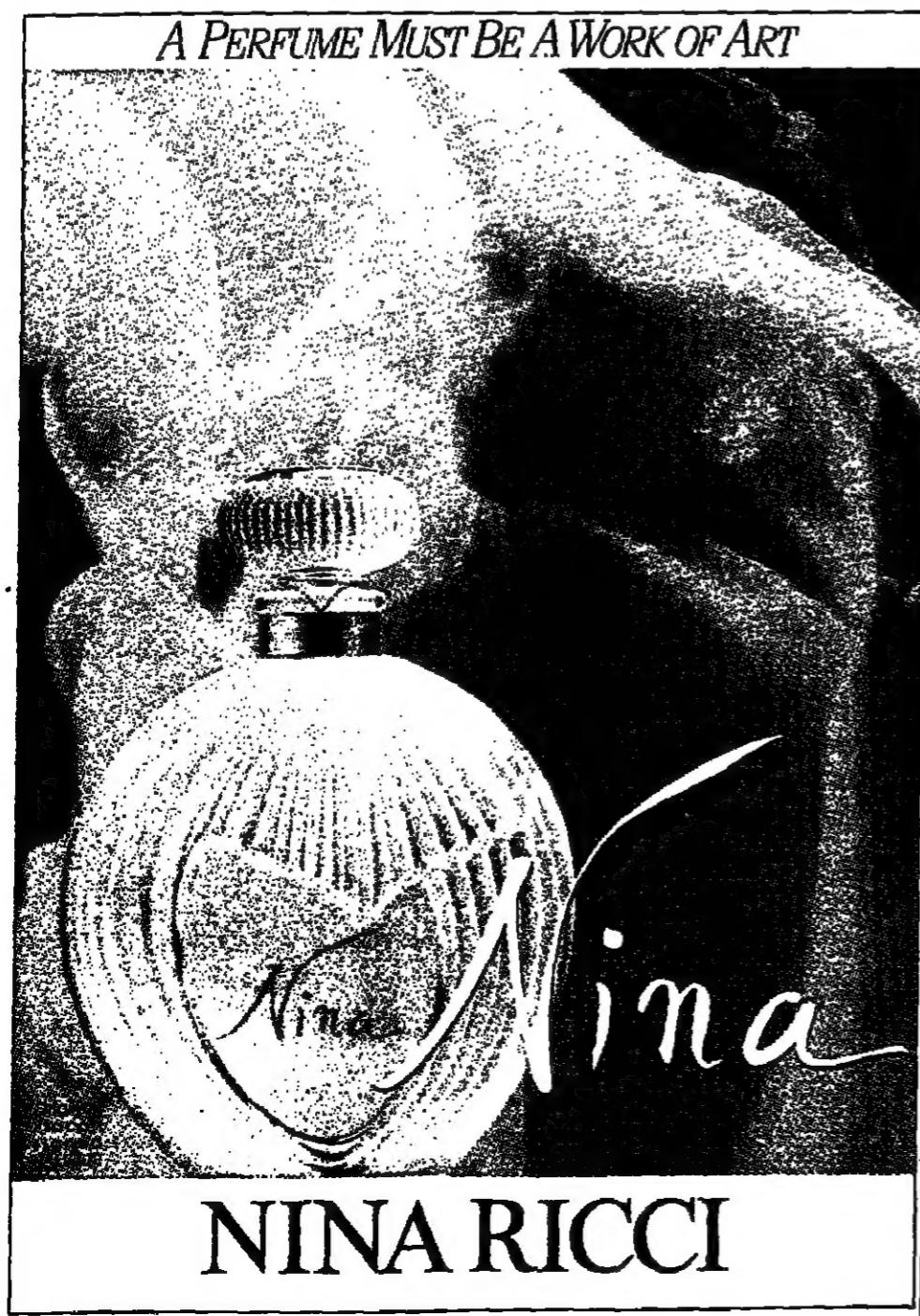
**ZURICH** (AP) — Switzerland experienced a seventh straight day of unusually warm weather Monday. It has caused a lack of snow, many winter resorts at the start of the Christmas vacation season.

Skiing was reported to be reliably possible only at stations above 2,600 meters (8,600 feet). It was feared that all several resorts that could seriously suffer if winter fails to arrive next week.

The Dresden airport will be closed for a year starting Jan. 1. The reconstruction of the runway, the East German news agency A9 said Monday. International and charter flights will be diverted to other German airports, primarily Leipzig, the official agency said.

An EgyptAir jetliner carrying 93 passengers made an emergency landing in Accra a few minutes after taking off because fire broke out in an engine, the official Ghana News Agency said. The plane was bound for Cairo by way of Lagos and Kanca, Nigeria. (Reuters)

## A PERFUME MUST BE A WORK OF ART



## Doctors Split Over Early Use of AZT to Treat AIDS

By Gina Kolata  
New York Times Service

**NEW YORK** — Defying official recommendations, a growing number of U.S. doctors who treat carriers of the AIDS virus are prescribing a powerful, potentially toxic

drug even before the patients develop serious signs of disease.

The drug is zidovudine, or AZT. It is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration only for certain patients with the disease or those who show some disease symptoms and whose immune systems are seriously damaged, groups in which the benefits of AZT have been established. But once a drug is approved, doctors may legally prescribe it to any patient.

More than a dozen AIDS physicians and health authorities interviewed said the practice of prescribing AZT to patients without symptoms had become widespread in recent months, as the drug, once scarce, became readily available.

The practice has split the U.S. medical community. While some

doctors supported it as a compassionate response to an unusual threat, others were deeply alarmed, saying they could not recall another case where a drug with such toxic potential had been so widely prescribed for a condition other than that specified by the Food and Drug Administration.

"I don't think there was ever before a situation like this in medicine," said Dr. Itzhak Brook of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. "This is just what I was afraid of." Dr. Brook was chairman of a Food and Drug Administration advisory committee that evaluated AZT.

Experts who, like Dr. Brook, are worried about the trend say for relatively healthy patients there is no proof that AZT will provide benefits that outweigh the substantial risks. Those risks include

suppression of bone marrow, which can cause severe anemia and make patients vulnerable to life-threatening infections.

AZT is also widely used in Europe to treat carriers of the virus, European health officials said.

[A spokeswoman for the Pasteur Institute in Paris, a leading AIDS research center, said French specialists increasingly are inclined to prescribe AZT as soon as blood tests lead them to suspect a carrier of the virus is likely to develop the disease.

[A fall in the number of T4 lymphocytes in the patient's blood or a positive result to antigen tests, the spokeswoman said, is considered sufficient justification to prescribe AZT, even if the patient is not showing physical symptoms of AIDS. T4 lymphocyte cells are involved in the body's defense against viruses and its rejection of foreign tissue. A lowered count indicates that the body's immune system is breaking down.]

But even the staunchest critics are sympathetic to the plight of frightened patients and their doctors. Some doctors find it impossible to refrain from using the drug, knowing that it may be only a matter of time until a patient's immune system falters still more and the symptoms of acquired immune deficiency syndrome develop.

"I'm very wary of giving the drug to symptomless carriers of the AIDS virus," said Dr. Jeffrey Lazarus of the Cornell University School of Medicine. "But there are a lot of scared people out there."

Dr. William Siroty, a New York City doctor who treats AIDS patients, said he gave AZT to healthy patients, said he gave AZT to healthy patients.

### CHURCH SERVICES

**MOSCOW** — Alexander Lerner, a Jewish scientist who has been refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union for almost 17 years, said Monday that he had been given permission to leave with members of his family.

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## Sandinists Try to Repel Contras in Mining Area

Compiled by Our Staff Foreign Dispatchers  
MANAGUA — The rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinist government claimed major gains Monday in a drive into a remote mining region three days before a truce was scheduled to start, but the Defense Ministry said most of the casualties were civilians.

Contra spokesmen claimed at least 100 Sandinist casualties, without specifying the number killed. They said nothing about rebel casualties.

The ministry said 23 government soldiers and 24 rebels were killed in fighting in three mining towns near the Honduran border. It said that the situation had returned to normal in the towns of Rosita and Siuna but that fighting continued in the town of Bonanza.

The rebels, known as the contras, said 7,000 of their troops captured the towns Sunday, overrunning an army barracks and destroying military installations.

The mining region has become increasingly important for the government, which is trying to bolster the declining economy.

The country will export an estimated \$23 million in gold this year and hopes to increase that figure to \$35 million in 1988.

The ministry said a surface-to-air missile fired by the U.S.-supplied rebels hit a cargo plane of the state-owned airline Aeronica, wounding four crew members.

The Managua-Panama plane made an emergency landing at a farm in northeastern Costa Rica. An investigation was begun, the Costa Rican Public Security Ministry said. There were unconfirmed reports that mechanical trouble forced the plane down.

Despite the offensive, high-level representatives of the contras and the government gathered for a second time in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, to discuss a cease-fire.

Both sides have accepted a truce proposed for Thursday and Friday by the mediator in the talks, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua.

The fighting began before dawn Sunday in the gold- and silver-mining area in the north near the Caribbean coast.

A brief government report Monday said 53 civilians were wounded in the village of Siuna. It said rebels blew up a gasoline storage tank there.

The report said fighting continued in Bonanza but all was "under complete control" in Siuna and Rosita.

The offensive was said to be the largest yet by the contras.

President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua said Monday morning in the National Assembly, "They continue fighting in the zone."

A contra spokesman in Miami, Jorge Rosales, said that he believed the fighting was still going on Monday but that no reports had been received since Sunday.

The offensive shows the contras to be "a force in Nicaragua that has to be taken into consideration," Mr. Rosales said.

The Sandinists charged that the rebel offensive was a bid for publicity in an effort to influence debate in the U.S. Congress on renewing their funding.

An agreement was reached Sunday between Congress and the White House that would give the rebels \$8.1 million in nonmilitary aid through the end of February.

The Reagan administration described the offensive as "very encouraging" and "very helpful." The chief White House spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said of the rebels, "They remain a strong fighting force."

Mr. Ortega said that "if the new American Congress approves new mercenary funds" for the rebels, "it will be making a mockery of the sovereignty of the Central American presidents." The region's five presidents signed a peace plan in August. (AP, Reuters)

## Two Get 15 Days For KGB Protest

MOSCOW — Two women dissidents each were jailed for 15 days on Monday for attempting to stage a protest outside the Leningrad headquarters of the KGB security police, a Moscow sympathizer said.

Yevgeniya Debryanskaya told reporters by telephone that the Leningrad pair, members of a dissident committee for East-West trust, were arrested on Sunday and charged with an offense against public order.

She said that the two, Olga Kovalchuk and Yekaterina Podol'seva, had briefly held up banners calling for the release of political prisoners and for a cut of 50 percent in staff employed by the KGB. A similar demonstration in Moscow on Saturday resulted in no arrests.

U.S. Asks Pretoria to Spare 6

JOHANNESBURG — The United States appealed Monday to South Africa to spare the lives of six blacks, five men and one woman, who have been sentenced to hang for burning a black official to death in a "necklace" killing, with a gasoline-soaked tire, during anti-apartheid riots in 1984.



ON THE SEVENTH DAY THEY WORKED — Representative Jim Wright of Texas, left, the House speaker, listens to Representative Tony Coelho, Democrat of California, over lunch at a special congressional session Sunday. The legislators passed a stopgap spending bill to keep the government operating until Congress votes on a spending bill.

## College Students Toast New Drinking Law

### Effort on Drunkenness Seems to Have Opposite Effect

By Nick Ravo  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — New state laws making 21 the legal drinking age, intended to combat drunken driving among young Americans, are having little effect on cutting down on drinking among college students, according to recent studies and interviews with university officials and students.

They also say the laws may be resulting in more undergraduates driving while intoxicated because stiffer college regulations are leading more students to drink off campus at fraternity houses, social clubs or local bars, where school officials have little or no jurisdiction.

The officials note, too, that many undergraduate students are drinking secretly, and often more recklessly, in their dormitory rooms, where school officials seldom intrude.

This secret drinking has become a growing concern because of a dangerous practice that Robert Gringle, a Duke University health services official, calls "front loading."

It entails students drinking large quantities of alcohol in a short period of time before going to an event where they will not be served. In one incident, three Yale students were hospitalized this year after arriving intoxicated at a school-sponsored Halloween dance.

Last year, a 19-year-old Yale student died after drinking large quantities of tequila in a dormitory room.

Yale officials defend their decision not to police residence halls, saying it would be impractical and an invasion of privacy.

Betty Traachtenberg, dean of student affairs at Yale University, said that Yale usually did not punish students found illegally drinking on campus for fear that it would inhibit them from seeking medical help for students who may become severely intoxicated.

"You don't want a student to die because another student is afraid to call the police," she said.

In the last five years, under the threat of losing federal transportation funds, the District of Columbia and 15 states raised their legal drinking ages to 21, bringing to 48 the number of states with such laws. South Dakota will enact it next year, but legislators in Wyoming have repeatedly defeated such proposals.

School officials note that it is also difficult to stop underage students from drinking on campus because of false identification cards and an abundance of upperclassmen who can legally buy alcoholic beverages.

"I think the trend is going toward dry campuses," said Kim Duke, assistant director of residential life policies at Missouri. "Otherwise, you're in a compromising position, and the liability for serving an underage drinker is phenomenal."

## Senate Committee Delays Approval Of 6 Nominees to U.S. Envoy Posts

By John M. Goshko  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has refused, at least temporarily, to approve six nominees for vacant U.S. ambassadorships, thereby requiring that the six be renominated and that the lengthy process of winning Senate confirmation be restarted.

The delays in acting on President Ronald Reagan's appointees mean that the posts are likely to remain empty for several more months. Some of the positions are in countries where the State Department says it is important to have a fully functioning ambassador.

These include Poland, where

John R. Davis Jr. has been acting ambassador since 1983, during a period of strained relations; Iraq, whose war with Iran has prompted the administration to send a large naval force to the Gulf; and Nicaragua, where the United States backs a guerrilla war against the Sandinist government.

Congressional sources attributed the delays to a variety of causes. But they said the delays generally were the result of committee members seeking more information about the nominees.

The situation has focused new attention on the testimony of some senators, mostly but not exclusively conservative Republicans, to use the confirmation process to impose

their foreign policy views by defeating or delaying approval of the administration's nominees.

Seven nominations were considered by the committee on Thursday. Only that of Henry Anatole Grunwald, former editor in chief of Time Inc., to be ambassador to Austria was approved and sent to the full Senate for confirmation.

The remaining six were delayed for further consideration. But, since Congress will not reconvene until January, after the Christmas recess, the nominations will lapse and must be submitted again next year. The six nominees include four professional diplomats and two political appointees.

The career diplomats are Mr. Davis; Charles F. Dunbar, nomi-

inated as ambassador to North Yemen; April C. Glaspie, nominated as envoy to Iraq; and Richard H. Melton, appointed to serve in Nicaragua. The other candidates are Milton Frank, a California public relations executive nominated as ambassador to Nepal, and Bill K. Perrin, a Texas businessman picked to fill the post in Cyprus.

Congressional sources said it was difficult to say which committee members had blocked specific nominations. But they said most of the nominations appeared to have encountered complaints from Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, who said the appointees or the State Department had failed to provide sufficient information about their backgrounds.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress appeared on the verge of approving a budget package Monday nearly three months into the 1988 fiscal year, and President Ronald Reagan said he was hopeful that an end to the impasse over aid to the Nicaraguan rebels and other points of contention was at hand.

The greatest hurdle was overcome when White House and congressional negotiators agreed on a compromise that would give \$8.1 million in aid to the rebels, known as contras. The compromise sets up a possible showdown vote on U.S. policy toward the contras at early

reached last month to slow the growth of the federal deficit by \$75 billion over the next two years, including \$30.2 billion this year.

ing weapons, to the rebels. The request would be put to a congressional vote on Feb. 4.

■ Balance Sought in Plan

The contra aid proposal is intended to balance the president's demand for more aid with the strong opposition, especially among House Democrats, to helping the contras while Central American leaders are trying to implement the regional peace agreement they signed in Guatemala in August. The New York Times reported from Washington.

The accord also would allow the president to submit a request to Congress for additional aid, includ-

ing delivery of previously purchased military equipment with the new aid.

The compromise would allow the delivery of previously purchased military equipment with the new aid.

The issue is complicated by the political difficulty of many moder-

ates and Republicans who do not want to appear to be promoting a war to overthrow the Nicaraguan government but who also do not want to seem to be abandoning the contras.

Conservatives are not entirely happy with the accord either. Senator Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, said that by agreeing to vote again in February on whether to continue the aid, "we are playing Russian roulette with the contras' future."

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## South Korean Suspicions Epitomized in Episode Of the Ballot-Box Battle

By Clyde Haberman  
New York Times Service

SEOUL — For many suspicious South Koreans, the Battle of Kuro will long linger as the prime example that the presidential election last week was stolen by the government.

There is certainly hard evidence and credible anecdotal material to conclude that a disturbing amount of ballot-switching, vote-buying and coercion occurred on election day. But no one has come up with proof that the irregularities were so epidemic as to undermine the government's victory or to absolve the opposition from blame for having split apart.

Even though most South Koreans seem to accept the election of Roh Tae Woo, others are withholding judgment. For them, the Battle of Kuro looms large. It also encapsulates the suspicions and rumors — the basic mistrust — that form a large part of daily Korean life.

Kuro is a working-class district in southern Seoul, presumably a stronghold of the opposition figure Kim Dae Jung.

While voting was under way Wednesday, people at the local ward office discovered an official leaving in an unofficial-looking truck. It had a ballot box in the back, and the box was covered with food packages, as if to hide it.

All he was doing, the official said, was carrying absentee ballots to a central counting center. But to many other Koreans, his behavior was suspicious, and anti-government crowds quickly surrounded the ballot box.

There ensued a 45-hour siege of the ward-office compound that ended in a brutal battle between the police and dissidents. Rumors about that protesters were killed, but no one has yet produced any names, let alone bodies.

Meanwhile, the ballot box in question, and two more found inside the building, were taken away. According to one account, they are in storage somewhere. Another version is that the ballots were burned.

There is not a clear fact in the entire story. But in rumor-driven South Korea, many people suspect that the government had something to hide and that questions raised by the Kuro incident may point to a broader pattern of ballot-box fraud.

It is the sort of episode likely to nip at Mr. Roh as he tries to establish his legitimacy after having won one-third of the vote.

Three nights before the election the state-owned television network broadcast "The Killing Fields," a movie about the devastation that followed the Communist takeover of Cambodia in 1975. Two nights before that, there was a program on North Korea that showed a drab, uniform, goose-stepping society.

The programming is another situation that cannot be fully deciphered, but many Koreans say they are convinced the broadcasts were timed to remind voters graphically of the importance of national security and anti-Communism. The

message was almost certainly a boon for Mr. Roh.

For similar reasons, suspicions were raised when a mysterious woman was brought from Bahrain to Seoul for questioning in the disappearance last month of a South Korean airliner. The South Korean government says it believes that a time bomb exploded on the plane as it flew over the Thai-Burmese border and that North Korea was probably behind it.

The woman, known only by the fictitious name of Mayumi Hayashi, tried to kill herself upon her capture in Bahrain by biting into a cyanide capsule. Her partner, an older man, succeeded.

It struck some South Koreans as too coincidental that she was extradited from Bahrain and brought to Seoul the day before the election. For many, their last televised images before heading to the polls was this possible agent of North Korea. How much it affected their vote, of course, cannot be said.

Kim Young Sam meeting the U.S. ambassador, James Roderick Lillie, to discuss the vote.

## GAZA: Having Grown Up Under Israeli Rule, the 'Shebab' Are Lashing Out

(Continued from Page 1)

materialist, taking part in a growing Islamic trend in Gaza.

He was shot three times, once in the head, as he came out of the local mosque with hundreds of others after midday prayers on Friday about "God is Great" and Palestinian slogans at Israeli soldiers, who first fired tear gas, then bullets.

The "maim" held for him was an Arab tradition of gathering to comfort the family of the dead. A cloth had been stretched over to form a kind of tent, from which Palestinian flags and quotations from the Koran hung. The voices of the young men turned angry, and they stoned their defense of the Israelis.

"I will be killed fighting them, and my brother and my sister," a young man said. "We will struggle, as you see; we will struggle with stones and by killing ourselves."

The dead man's mother, Zahiya, 47 years old, came from a village

near what is now Ashkelon, during the fighting that secured the independence of Israel in 1948. His wife of four years, Dalal, who is pregnant, pulled her black Islamic shawl closer as she held the baby.

The mother was asked if she would let her remaining sons join the demonstrations.

"As long as I am alive, I am going to teach the young people to fight until we have a solution," she said. "We want to live in peace, and we want the Jews out of our land. I don't care whatever happens as long as we get our land."

By taking to the streets, the young men have shaken up Palestinians at the same time that they have challenged their Israeli rulers, pushing aside the influence of traditional local notables and the absentee Palestine Liberation Organization, which has been scrambling to keep up.

The sources of the anger in Gaza have been charted — then ignored — in numerous studies and reports.

Once a rural orange-growing center and caravan stop, Gaza came under the British Mandate in Palestine when the Ottoman Empire was broken up at the end of World War I. Egyptian troops took control in the 1948 fighting. The period of Egyptian rule is not remembered fondly in Gaza either.

Israel took over when it won the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. Today, Gaza, less prosperous than the occupied West Bank, is a place that Egypt does not want back.

Unlike the Palestinians on the West Bank, who hold Jordanian citizenship and passports, Gaza residents are officially stateless and can only obtain with difficulty special refugee travel documents from Egypt. Even travel to Egypt is a problem.

The Gaza Strip is home to 650,000 Palestinians, roughly three-quarters of whom are considered refugees. No longer bucolic, it is now about 85 percent urban, and most of it is crammed by shums and

other substandard housing. The population density is among the world's highest.

In recent years, Gaza has also become home for some 2,500 Israeli settlers, most of them from ideological religious movements. Although the settlers comprise only 0.4 percent of Gaza's population, they occupy 8 percent of its land. Their presence has greatly increased the tension.

The Gaza Strip provides a vast pool of cheap labor for Israel, leading the Israeli writer Amos Elon to describe it as the "Soweto of the state of Israel."

The official Israeli estimate is that about 45,000 workers a day, or roughly half the territory's labor force, commute daily to mostly menial jobs in Israel. As many as 15,000 others are believed to work in Israel at jobs that are unrecorded or technically illegal.

Because the workers from Gaza in Israel pay more in taxes than the \$17.5 million the Israeli government contributes to the area's budget, and because much of the consumer goods in Gaza must be purchased in Israel, a 1986 study of Gaza by the West Bank Data Base Project concluded:

"It becomes apparent that the occupation is not only self-supporting but in fact may be profit-making."

The study group, headed by Meron Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, has strongly criticized Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

Its report on the Gaza Strip described "catastrophic" health conditions, failing citrus production because of Israeli limits on exports to Europe, dramatically declining fish catches because of security limits on the fleet, stagnant industry, overcrowded and deteriorating schools and declining resources of fresh water.

## STRIKE: Protests Spread, and 3 More Palestinians Die

(Continued from Page 1)

way between Hadera and Afula in the Galilee.

The police used hundreds of canisters of tear gas to break up the crowd and then to chase them off the surrounding hills that overlook the highway intersection.

In the walled Old City of Jerusalem, the narrow streets in the Arab Christian and Moslem sections were almost completely empty on Monday, the steps of an occasional baffled tourist clutching a map echoing on the stone. Scores of paramilitary border policemen lounged near the Damascus Gate or patrolled the shuttered Salah-al-Din Street, the main commercial area in Arab East Jerusalem.

Bethlehem looked like a ghost town, only days before Christmas, the lines of souvenir shops shut down. At the refugee districts at the edge of the city, youths stoned passing cars and soldiers.

Bethlehem's mayor, Elias Freij, under pressure to cancel the traditional festivities, said Monday that he would not hold his annual cock-tail party, to which he invites diplomats and Israeli officials.

"We have to show solidarity with our people," said Mr. Freij, a Christian Palestinian. "We cannot have a cocktail party under a tent."

The disorders within Israel itself reached such normally quietest groups as the bedouins of the Negev, a dozen of whom were arrested for four hours in retaliation for a dawn guerrilla attack.

Afghan youths in the village of Tuba and one in Jenin, had been shot to death while throwing firebombs. A second youth in the Jenin incident was reported in critical condition.

## 12 Die in Lebanon Clash

At least 12 persons were killed in clashes Monday between Lebanese guerrillas and Israeli-backed troops in southern Lebanon, United Press International reported from Beirut.

The report, quoting witnesses and security officials, said the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army shelled and rocketed Nabatiyeh, 33 miles (53 kilometers) south of Beirut, and seven nearby villages for four hours in retaliation for a dawn guerrilla attack.

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## ARTS / LEISURE

**Basel Show Is Abstract, With Twist****Robert Einbeck Gets Religion**

By Michael Gibson

**BASEL, Switzerland** — The work that has provoked the strongest reaction in Robert Einbeck's show here is a canvas to which he has affixed a crown of thorns.

The show, filled with paintings done in the sensitive and highly polished abstract idiom characteristic of the painter, was devoted to Christian symbols: cross, star, minitrian triangle and so on, but for some reason it was the three-dimensional crown that caught everyone's attention and caused some distress among critics of all persuasions. This rather pleased Einbeck. In his view, the reaction shows that "a traditional cultural content is, in fact, much more present in people's psyches than one actually imagines."

Einbeck, 43, has been showing works marked by his concern with serenity, meditation and a contemplative attitude in Paris galleries for a number of years. In the past, however, the works were entirely abstract. The artist's preoccupations were voiced only by form, color relationships and the extremely controlled ordering of the painting. Whatever else one may think of his work or ideas, Einbeck is a highly gifted graphic. He knows how to arrange a painted surface in a way that allows even the most abstract of forms to convey a message. The addition of explicitly religious symbols is new,



One of Einbeck's crosses: "A traditional cultural content in people's psyches."

and it raises interesting questions about the possibility of doing this sort of thing in art today.

Einbeck is surprised that one should query his use of religious symbols. "After all," he points out, "Alain Kirili makes crucifixes and George Jeanclos sculptures for a Romanesque church, and everyone thinks it's great. So why shouldn't I paint crosses or display a crown of thorns?" To this one might retort that Kirili and Jeanclos are Jewish, which somehow transposes their relationship to Christian symbols onto a neutral, secular ground — although the viewer is free to carry it back to the religious domain.

Also, in each case, there is a specific formal problem that serves as a material counterpoint to the content: Kirili applies his technique of bending iron to the traditional form of the cross, Jeanclos seeks to blend his present-day idiom into the Romanesque background for which the work was commissioned.

In the same way, non-believers such as Chagall or Matisse produced works that successfully function as works of art in an explicitly Christian context. And, of course,

the pure abstractions of the self-proclaimed atheist Mark Rothko are quite appropriate to the non-denominational chapel designed for them in Houston and radiate a form of serenity similar to the one Einbeck wants to foster.

Nevertheless, because the societies of the industrial world are predominantly secular — as societies — any artist dealing with religious subjects, or with a domain of sensibility that at one time was considered religious, is obliged to do some complicated footwork if his work is to be regarded as relevant outside his own creed. The straightforward statement of belief can be felt to be naive, not because it expresses a religious conviction but because it fails to take into account the complicated semantics that the present situation imposes.

Einbeck and his wife, Marion, however, are inclined to let it be known that they are fervent Catholics and they occasionally express their convictions by recourse to improvised ritual that can be embarrassing to some. At the opening of the show, the Einbecks asked everybody to join hands and observe

one minute's silence "for peace in the world." One can hardly take exception to the idea, but a few people looked around for an exit. They found none and ultimately everyone held hands dutifully until the minute was over. Everyone also seemed to agree that it was a handsome show and that the artist has a singular and effective idiom.

His concern with harmony and serenity has led him to some unexpected ventures such as the experiments conducted, at his instigation, with a team of doctors in Paris to determine the impact of three colors on the heartbeat of people exposed to them. These experiments revealed distinct patterns of physiological response to the three colors (red, green and blue). The Einbecks were surprised to discover that blue tended to provoke anxiety and an accelerated heart-rate. The next set of tests, still in the planning stage, will consist of experiments to observe brainwave patterns associated with specific colors.

Robert Einbeck, Mario Mainetti Gallery, Elisabethstrasse 56, Basel, to Dec. 31.

**Small Talk At Big Parties***International Herald Tribune*

AS THE party season slips into top gear, a pocket-size book has come out that can give stay-at-homes the rusty feeling of having been out all night and wallflowers the illusion of having had a good chat. Take, for instance:

*Alan, I'm not awfully certain I like you.**You are going to have dinner with me. This I do insist.**I'd like a glass with a little piece of lemon in it, some tonic, some Gordon's and some ice.**Don't flinch all the time I'm talking to you.*

These snatches have been overheard by London's most gifted eavesdropper, Andrew Barrow, and collected in "The Great Book

**MARY BLUME**

of Small Talk," published in London by Fourth Estate and illustrated by Mark Boxer. Barrow has been noting down other people's conversations in small red notebooks since W.H. Smith since 1966.

"As you know I look rather anonymous so nobody wonders what I'm doing," Barrow says. "I never look in the direction of the person speaking and I've always scribbled at different times so I've never looked as if I'm waiting to take dictation." Barrow refers to his slim volume as the tip of the iceberg. "I've got at least 10 times more than this — at least 10,000 quotes, I should think."

At his publisher's party, which featured balloons painted with quotations from the book such as "I hate this sort of party," Barrow didn't write a word.

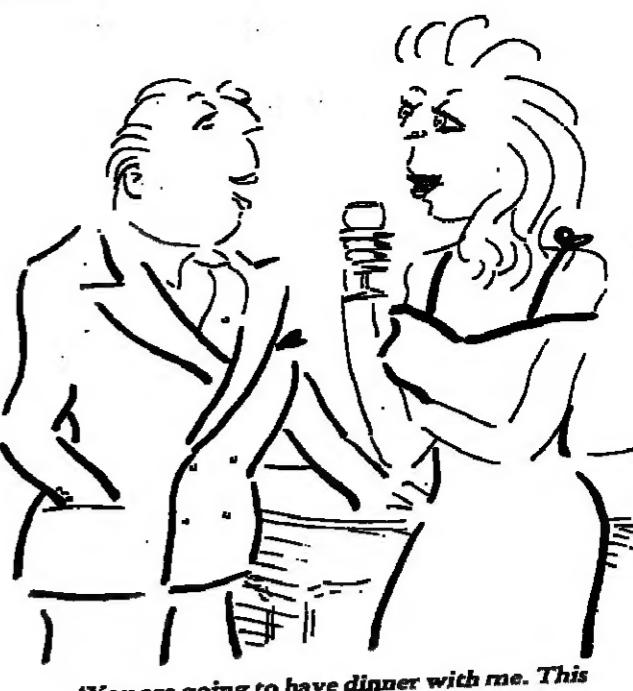
"I had my notebook on me but I didn't take it out. There would have been good material around but I resisted it. Unfortunately I find it more difficult to write now — I'm more self-conscious about doing it, more polite."

"When I started doing this material it really came out of my isolation and shyness in a way." Despite this shyness Barrow was a six-party-a-night man in his bachelor days, and in fact many of the remarks in "Small Talk" were directed at him.

"I was having various encounters

with other human beings and then brooding about what they were saying all the time. I brooded over these remarks, some of which at the time hurt me. Once one's put them in a book like this, they're funny, really."

Some are funny, some urgid, some surreal: "I've had every inch of my face complimented. Even my mole." It's not a joke book: Barrow finds it sat in part. His college of non sequiturs, divided into Party Talk, Office Talk and Pub Talk, has a particular eeriness, as in this Party Talk sequence:

*Let's just say I have a clinical interest in you.**No, my dear, honestly, I'm perfect. Really I'm fine.**Do you still live in Mayfair?**Well I do and I don't.**The moment I get into her flat I knew it was home and dry.**Why are smiling in that mad way?**I'm looking forward to it no end.**They now think it's a pinched nerve.**It's not all cliché, some of the stuff is absolutely specific, it's a mixture, isn't it?" Barrow says.**It's as wide as life itself in a way.**Barrow is a mildly eccentric social lepidopterist whose previous books include a selection from English gossip columns from 1920-70 and a gossipy history of the Anglican Church. Snatches of his small talk collection were first published in Punch in 1971. Trivia is his passion — "I myself am completely trivial; I have never been able to draw conclusions," he has said — and his specialty is the marginalia of social history. His interest in trivia is extremely serious.**All my books are serious; this one has been taken seriously by one or two people. This book is a breakthrough for me in the sense it's the first time I've done a book which doesn't have a famous name in it." The book has no names in it at all. "I love the idea of imposing order on chaos, collecting a chaotic number of fragments of little remarks and noting them down."**No one to Barrow's knowledge has ever eavesdropped on him. "I don't think I'm that interesting a talker; I'm too self-conscious probably. All these people are pretty unselfconscious, aren't they? You'd have to stop if you thought anyone was listening."**London eavesdropping is the**You are going to have dinner with me. This I do insist.*

best in the world. Party talk, Barrow says, is a wide mixture. "Some of it is very confidential and the other's absolutely platinidinous and idiotic." The Office Talk section, someone told him, begins gently and then becomes ferociously unpleasant. Pub talk is the easiest. "In London you hear people talking about their private lives in pubs in extremely loud voices; you can't help listening to it. There's also a lot of saloon-bar philosophy — things like 'God is good. He always gives you a little bit of something to go on!'"

The technique may not work for fiction, though. "I remember showing some of my family conversation to a publisher a while back and he said, 'This is the sort of thing people read books to get away from.'"

**THE FIRST NAPOLEON MALT WHISKY.**

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**DOONESBURY**

The Russian city Volgograd, some 90 miles south west of Volgograd (the old Stalingrad) between the Caspian and Black Sea, had something of a problem. The sewers needed to be completely renovated. But that would mean total confusion in the city centre. What's more, some of the underground areas had become completely inaccessible.

In the Dutch city of Delft, a company called Zegwaard had an idea: Sewer renovation without breaking open streets or ploughing up parks. By recovering the walls of the pipes. On the inside. Technically possible, too. But where on earth do you find a material that is pliable, which hardens at relatively low temperatures, and which is resistant to chemicals, changes of temperature, pressure, impact, and torsion?

In another Dutch city, Heerlen, one of Europe's largest chemical concerns started working on a solution. Some of the 1500 research specialists and scientists at DSM developed a special resin which was ideal for a unique method of renovating sewers and pipes. A durable layer was applied to the inside of the pipes in the form of a sheath. High quality polyester, epoxy, and polyurethane resins have also been developed for a wide range of other applications.

DSM

If we don't have a solution, we find one.

# The sewers in Russia have been redecorated.

# INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post

## Good News From Japan

Comfort and joy are sparse this Christmas for people who worry about incomes, jobs or international debt. Most Northern countries risk seeing a mediocre 1987 followed by a disappointing 1988, and that will rub off on the poorer South. But the horizon shows a bright star in the East. Japan's economy is performing well by international standards.

On Sept. 5 in this space we were skeptical of Japanese assertions about renewed economic growth. Sluggish trends early in the year seemed unlikely to be changed by limited government efforts to lift the economy; at best, Tokyo could get the benefit of the doubt. Recent events dispel some of the doubt in favor of the benefits.

Japan is showing a GNP growth clearly above that of any other major economy. And what is supporting this buoyant activity is no longer a growing export surplus but a boom in domestic demand, which is just what the doctors have been prescribing for years. It made little sense, for Japan or its partners, to perpetuate the process whereby the economy grew only because it was selling more and more goods to the outside world and restraining the rise of its own living standard. That is late but welcome.

One factor pushing up spending is the effect of past excessive success in the world export league. The yen has been forced up

by the markets, which makes Japan much better off in comparison with other countries: the Japanese are cashing in on their gains as the rising yen reflects real income at home. Tax reform has also played a role. And home-building is up sharply, despite the high costs of building, because a 6 percent mortgage stretched out over two generations looks attractive if you expect inflation, now very low, to accelerate, shrinking your debt in real terms.

At some stage the rising yen risks boom-busting on domestic demand, because lower competitiveness will shrink the profit margins of the big export industries and force them to reduce the capital outlays on which prosperity still partly depends.

The urge to introduce a value-added tax needs to be resisted. Eventually it will be needed to help support the aging population, but as long as total saving is so high — which is why Japan runs an excessive foreign surplus — the time is not ripe.

Restrictive trade policies persist, especially in the farm sector, where protection is probably higher in Japan than anywhere else in the developed world. And it is unclear how much recent initiatives are going to add to the feeble flow of public aid to the Third World.

Still, give the Japanese credit for their present economic performance.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

## Sugar Trade Is a Mess

The United States will import no more sugar in 1988 than it did in 1875. The way things are going, it may soon import none at all. That is splendid for a few thousand protected farmers — but a raw deal for everyone else. Hopes of relief have faded with Congress adjourning, but the administration and consumers need to keep up the pressure for a reduced support price.

U.S. sugar law, in force since 1982, sets the American price currently 21.8 cents a pound, at more than triple the world market price. At retail, sugar goes for about 36 cents a pound in Washington, D.C., is higher in Europe and still higher in Japan. In Latin America and other Third World countries it is substantially less.

To avoid federal outlays for surplus sugar, Congress ordained that the price be enforced by curtailing imports. If U.S. production rises, imports must fall and the consumers pay. The administration, having no real choice but to obey the law, has just whacked the 1988 quota by 25 percent, to approximately 750,000 tons — down 75 percent since 1982. It could drop to zero by 1990.

The American quota means trouble for the economies of the Caribbean, Brazil, the Philippines and Australia, among others. It also distorts agriculture and food processing at home. The high sugar price has increased the popularity of corn sweeteners and has driven some U.S. food companies over the border to Canada, where they can make their cake mixes, cookies and candy with cheaper raw material.

Why should all of America pay three times the world sugar price for the sake of a few farmers? In large measure because the

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## An Insider Goes Inside

The man who boasted, "Greed is healthy — you can be greedy and still feel good about yourself," will have time now to think about that proposition. Ivan Boesky, the leading figure in the Wall Street insider trading scandal, was sentenced to three years in prison on Friday for his crime. U.S. District Judge Morris Lasker said, "Some kind of message must be sent to the business community that such activities cannot be wholly repaired simply by repaying people after the fact." Was the penalty for this white-collar first offender too harsh? We don't think so. In fact, a good argument can be made that he worked out a very sweet deal with prosecutors, considering the magnitude of his scandalous operations.

Mr. Boesky was well known on Wall Street as an aggressive trader and self-described expert on risk arbitrage. He even wrote a book describing his economic theories and game plans for the market. It turns out, though, that he was not so much a scholar as a schemer who used inside information, not scientific analysis or brains, to build a personal fortune in the hundreds of millions of dollars. His greedy deals hurt thousands of other investors and rocked the public's confidence in the stock market. Implicated early in the scandal by one of his confederates, Dennis Levine, Mr. Boesky

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

## Other Comment

### Better to Get Out of Gaza

Shimon Peres has proposed that the Gaza Strip be demilitarized and the Jewish settlements there removed. Whether this would be a unilateral gesture or part of a package is uncertain, and will remain so because Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected the notion. Yet it makes political and military sense. The past two weeks may well be seen by Palestinians as a turning point in their fortunes. If so, further chance opportunities

to unnerve the security forces will be taken, with the inevitability of reprisals. That spells at least deep embarrassment for President Mubarak of Egypt, for the Palestinians will put it to him that he, with his peace treaty, is powerless to improve their situation, the treaty should be abrogated. That would be a disaster. But a de facto withdrawal by Israel from Gaza would relieve a lot of tension and be an earnest of good will toward the remaining Palestinians in occupied land.

— The Guardian (London).

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# OPINION

## The Outlook Is Bleak for Conventional Arms Control

By Robert Blackwill

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — In the aftermath of the INF treaty, attention in the West is sensibly turning to conventional defense and arms control in Europe. After Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington, there is even a hint of optimism in the air on this subject. Such humoring should stop. Significant progress in conventional arms control negotiations in the next several years is quite unlikely.

It is true that Moscow's rhetoric concerning conventional arms control has changed. In calling for deep reductions of conventional arms, the Soviets now routinely use the phrase "reasonable sufficiency" to describe the proper objective of Warsaw Pact and NATO defenses. They call for a transformed European security system based on "new thinking" in which neither alliance has the capacity for surprise attack. They admit that the Warsaw Pact has asymmetric advantages in some conventional weapons systems such as tanks. Moreover, major curbs in the Red Army would certainly assist Mr. Gorbachev's efforts to reform and reinvigorate the Soviet economy.

So why the pessimism?

• The Warsaw Pact enjoys conventional superiority in Europe with no prospect that NATO will build up its conventional forces. Moscow could well wish through an arms control agreement with the West to codify its conventional advantages at lower levels. Why should it wish to negotiate them away?

• Mr. Gorbachev can reduce the size of the bloated Soviet armed forces unilaterally, thus saving money without appreciably diminishing the military threat to Western Europe. This could include small Soviet troop withdrawals — no more than four divisions — from Eastern Europe, which would be meant to impress Western public opinion, stimulate NATO reciprocity, allow rapid re-introduction of Soviet forces in time of East European turbulence and avoid stringent verification. In

en Mr. Gorbachev's hold on power. • Any NATO conventional arms control proposal should seek deep cuts in Soviet forces in the western U.S.S.R. as well as major withdrawals from Eastern Europe. James Thomson of the Rand Corporation and I have suggested equal tank and artillery limits for NATO and the Warsaw Pact in the Atlantic-to-the-Ural area and in Central Europe and have argued that because of the immense mass of Soviet reinforcement capability from the U.S.S.R., small reductions, even if asymmetric, would be worse than nothing. But equal arms ceilings would require the elimination of tens of thousands of Warsaw Pact and especially Soviet tanks and artillery. This would signal not just an arms control agreement but a fundamental transformation of the postwar political order in Europe. Not likely.

• Verifying a conventional arms control agreement would be enormously difficult. It would require rapid Western access to thousands of Eastern military installations as well as Soviet willingness to expose, in an exchange of information with the West, the order of battle down to the battalion level. To imagine such military openness — far beyond the INF verification regime — is to contemplate another sort of Soviet Union than even the most accommodating Gorbachev could likely deliver.

• It is possible that the U.S.S.R. would be willing to trade some armor for Western nuclear weapons and/or dual-capable aircraft. After INF, such a deal would further the Soviet goal of a demilitarized Europe and therefore will for the foreseeable future be unacceptable to NATO. So what Moscow wants, NATO will not give.

• The withdrawal of many Soviet divisions from Eastern Europe could incite unrest there and threaten

fact one could argue that if Mr. Gorbachev really wishes urgently to reduce Soviet spending on conventional forces, he cannot afford to wait for a treaty with the West that at best could take years to conclude.

All this is not to say that the United States and NATO should give up on this endeavor as hopeless. To do so would both leave the initiative with Moscow and miss the opportunity to test Mr. Gorbachev's fine-sounding phrases. Therefore the alliance needs publicly to put forth its concept for conventional arms control in Europe and explain how this concept fits into Western strategy. But to believe that Mr. Gorbachev, no matter how visionary,

through good will and arms control will rescue the West from its conventional inferiority in Europe is to be on the lookout for Santa.

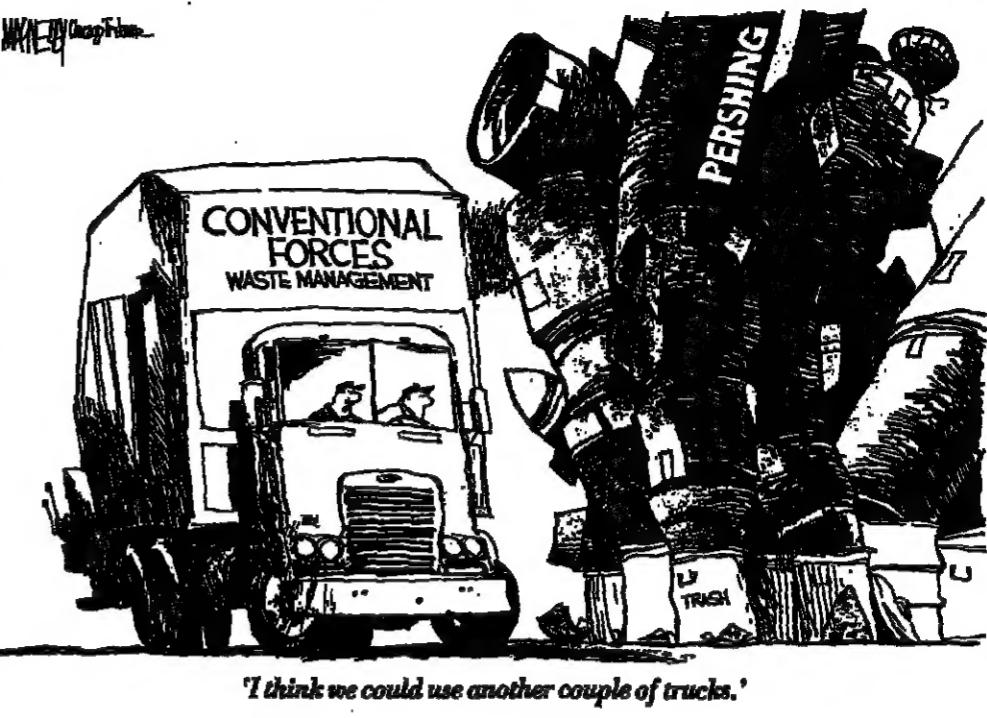
It follows that nuclear deterrence will remain a crucial element in the defense of the West.

After the INF treaty is ratified, we can expect renewed Soviet and Western, especially German, domestic pressure to reduce, even eliminate, battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe with ranges below 500 kilometers. Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany has stated that he has a commitment from NATO ministers that the alliance will expeditiously press for follow-on talks with Moscow on these short-range nuclear systems, most of which are deployed in the Federal

Republic. Since such a negotiation would serve Moscow's objective of moving toward a nuclear-free Europe, one could expect much more Soviet flexibility here than with respect to conventional forces. Thus NATO's enduring conventional inferiority could be matched by an even less credible nuclear deterrent.

Call it old thinking or new, this is what Moscow may have in mind. General Secretary Gorbachev can, of course, demonstrate otherwise — but not in the pages of Pravda.

The writer was U.S. ambassador to the conventional force negotiations in Vienna from 1985 until this year, and is now teaching at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.



'I think we could use another couple of trucks.'

## The INF Treaty Turns a Useful Spotlight on Conventional Forces

By Richard N. Haas

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The treaty eliminating land-based intermediate-range nuclear forces will probably pass the Senate when it comes up for a vote next spring. First will come a prolonged debate that will raise the question of whether the treaty has left America and its allies more vulnerable in Europe. As a result, the treaty's most significant contribution may not be the nuclear arms it eliminates but the new phase of concern and action on conventional arms that it stimulates.

This will not be the result of any design. Liberal senators will greet the treaty enthusiastically, believing that it will usher in a new, more constructive era in superpower relations.

The treaty will be opposed, or approved reluctantly, by conservatives who fear that it will kill American jobs in a false sense of security.

History suggests that neither prediction is likely to be borne out. The highly successful 1972 summit meeting which produced the SALT-1 agreement and the anti-ballistic missile treaty did not deter the Soviet Union from undermining detente. Similarly, the 1979 SALT-2 accord was followed by increasing Soviet support for its Ethiopian client and the invasion of Afghanistan. In the Soviet Union, no discernible improvement in human rights was triggered by gains in arms control; on the contrary, the emigration of Jews declined steadily throughout the decade.

Several factors account for this failure of

arms control success to improve the larger relationship. Agreement to regulate competition in one sphere of the relationship might not to be confused with a mutual desire, or the ability, to regulate competition in other theaters, weather alliance cohesion and NATO-Warsaw Pact mobilization schedules also point to significant Soviet advantages.

Attention to the military balance could conceivably create support in America and Europe for increased spending on conventional forces. What is needed is real growth in defense spending of 4 to 5 percent for several years.

However, an appeal to voters to provide much more for defense by raising taxes or reducing domestic spending is likely to be rejected. A more realistic possibility is a fresh policy that seeks to derive more bang for the same amount of bucks. Spending should be targeted on programs that would frustrate the first echelon of invading Warsaw Pact forces.

Similar assertions of robustness are all but certain to accompany the INF debate. Administration pledges on defense spending could be a quid pro quo for senators whose support is sought for the treaty.

There may, however, be an opportunity in the divergent visions of left and right to exploit the attention that is sure to be devoted to the balance of conventional weapons in Europe.

Most statistical measurements show substantial NATO inferiority in tanks, artillery and active divisions. More sophisticated assessments — ones that take into account qualitative factors as well as developments in other theaters, weather alliance cohesion and NATO-Warsaw Pact mobilization schedules — also point to significant Soviet advantages.

At first, an initiative along these lines would almost certainly meet with Soviet rejection. This would not be a reason to *forget* such an approach. The INF experience suggests that patience is as much necessity as virtue.

And such talks would provide a catalyst against unilateral American troop withdrawals and a decline in the level of the European defense effort, either of which would diminish allied bargaining leverage during negotiations.

The talks would also pinpoint areas of military imbalance requiring redress and provide the political framework for military modernization is needed in the NATO forces.

If arms control can accomplish all this, it will finally deserve the attention it has been getting.

The writer, who teaches at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, is co-editor of a book on American-Soviet arms control agreements. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

## Human Rights: The Silence of the Free Helps the Oppressors

By Jimmy Carter

The following remarks by former President Carter are from an address delivered on Dec. 10 at the annual ceremonies for the Carter-Mellon Human Rights Prize at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.

revive the long-dormant Costa Rican proposal for the establishment of the office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Such a position, modeled on the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, is needed to give this effort the institutional importance and high international visibility required for the effective performance of its functions.

Our definition of human rights should not be too narrow. People have a right to fill vital economic needs — to be fed, housed, clothed and educated. Civil and political rights must be protected — freedom of speech, thought, assembly, travel and participation in government. The rights of personal integrity are the most obvious of all — freedom from arbitrary arrest or imprisonment, torture or murder by one's own government.

Our human rights community that is seeking violations of human rights occurs anywhere, but our effectiveness in moving the world toward more humane treatment of people requires that we make some distinctions. The most serious human rights violations involve attacks on the rights of people to life and freedom.

Torture is still used on a massive scale by governments around the world. In South Africa, even children — many hundreds of them — have been imprisoned and tortured by a government whose cruel apartheid policies have justly earned it worldwide condemnation.

We should strengthen the United Nations in every way possible and

which was exposed in Argentina and Brazil, continues in some Latin American countries and elsewhere.

Not only are the police and military officials practicing or tolerating torture and murder, but there is a strong evidence to suggest the active collaboration of attorneys and physicians, a shameful perversion of professions sworn to justice and healing.

One-party, oppressive regimes of the left and right dominate Africa and the Middle East, and still exist in Asia and Latin America. The Soviet Union and its satellites and the People's Republic of China systematically deny basic civil and political rights to individuals and groups.

Most of these countries, despite political dissent, deny freedom of expression and severely limit freedom of movement and travel.

When authoritarian and totalitarian governments display signs of liberalization, as seems to be occurring with glasnost in the Soviet Union and progress toward free elections in South Korea, these trends should be encouraged by the international community.

The best assurance that fundamental personal rights will be respected is within democratic systems, where people can replace their leaders peacefully by secret ballot and where independent courts can prevent the arbitrary use of power.

The initial signs of transition toward democracy in Haiti were welcome, but that country has recently suffered a setback by inaction or outright obstruction of elections by the military government.

A similar need exists for free elections in Chile, where citizens have long waited for the right to choose their own leaders, to escape oppression and to shape the destiny of their nation.

The sweep of democracy across Latin America in the last decade is a source of joy for all of us, but many of these new democracies are still fragile and face serious human rights dilemmas. The question of whether to give amnesty to those who murdered or "disappeared" others is a most difficult one for these new democracies.

The heavy burden of external debt prevents the alleviation of poverty

## OPINION

## Linkage Isn't a Bad Idea, But Don't Mix the Links

By Charles Krauthammer

**WASHINGTON** — It seems that every American politician has his idea of linkage. In April, Sam Nunn urged that an Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty be linked to reductions in the Soviet tank force. Jack Kemp wants INF linked to ratification of Soviet violations of previous treaties. Robert Byrd advised Mikhail Gorbachev that Senate ratification of the INF treaty would be helped by a Soviet announcement of withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The problem with free-for-all linkage is that, given the number of things America wants from the Soviets and the number of things they want from it, the number of possible permutations on linkage is infinite. And too much linkage yields none: The Soviets will never know which linkage America is really serious about. Instead they are likely to conclude that linkage is simply the American way of sinking, and then blaming the Soviets for sinking, reachable agreements by holding them hostage to unrelated and impossible demands.

Linkage is an important tool in dealing with the Soviets, but to be effective it must be used sparingly and logically. The cardinal rule must be: Link like with like.

**Link arms control to arms control.** President Reagan is now in a position to conclude a dramatic strategic arms agreement. The distance between his Strategic Defense Initiative position and the Soviets' — whether or not to permit testing in outer space during the next seven to 10 years — is small. Moreover, the Soviet position is the same as the Senate's. It is being imposed on the administration regardless.

Time to cash in the chip. But for what? For two things.

First, for a dramatic cut in Soviet land-based ballistic missiles, which pose the threat of surprise (first-strike) attack. At the Washington summit, Mr. Reagan asked for that and did not get it. In return for agreeing to live by the narrow interpretation of the ABM treaty for seven to 10 years, the United States should insist on a strict sublimit of warheads on land-based missiles.

Second, link the SDI/ABM concession to a new agenda for arms control, namely, no more nuclear talks until the

major non-nuclear arms issues are resolved. Until the questions of chemical and biological weapons and the imbalance of tanks and artillery on the central front in Europe have been settled, no more talk about nukes. No talk of further reducing America's strategic nuclear deterrent. And no talk of eliminating battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe.

Pressure is already building in West Germany to get rid of battlefield weapons. And it is a supreme Soviet objective to encourage the denuclearization of West Germany in the hopes of neutralizing and detaching it from the Western alliance. America's price for SDI must be Soviet agreement to table all talk of further nuclear reductions.

**Link regional issues with regional issues.** The Soviets know they can no longer win in Afghanistan. What they have to show for their efforts is, in the words of one diplomat, "socialism in one city." They want out. The longer they wait to withdraw, the longer they bleed.

They want a deal. Why give it to them? Washington should say to Mr. Gorbachev: Afghanistan is your problem. You got in, you get out. You are no help to us in Vietnam and we believe in reciprocity. It is in our interest to see you leave Afghanistan by helicopter off the roof of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. We want a root, not a settlement.

We want your help to prevent a rout in your backyard? Then help us in ours. You want a settlement rather than a defeat in Afghanistan. We want a settlement rather than a defeat in Nicaragua. We will use our leverage to guarantee a nonaligned, neutral Afghanistan if you use yours to help guarantee a non-Communist Nicaragua. Our opening demand: Cut off military aid to the Sandinists.

**Human rights.** On arms control and regional conflicts, there is some symmetry between the superpowers. On human rights there is none. America cannot link their human rights issues to its own because they deny their people freedom and America doesn't. Nor does it make sense to link human rights to arms control or to regional conflicts. No president will or should refuse an arms control treaty because of low emigration rates from the Soviet Union.

Leverage on human rights must be non-military and non-strategic. Trade, for example. Fortunately, the necessary law, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, is already on the books. It needs only to be guarded against those ready to deal it away for Mr. Gorbachev's sunny smile. If the Soviets show themselves more humane to their captive populations, America will reciprocate economically.

Linkage is a good idea, but only if you don't mix linkages. Don't link arms control with human rights. Or regional conflicts with trade. And don't link INF with anything. That treaty is done. The time to think about linkage is before you sign, not after.

That we must prevent. Global political progress depends on constructive ex-

## Seemingly Reasonable'

POLLS show that the public supports the INF treaty, so I do not expect many opponents to attack it head-on. Instead they are likely to introduce politically attractive and seemingly reasonable amendments or reservations. This might include adding controversial verification measures or making ratification contingent on the Soviet Union getting out of Afghanistan. These amendments would be offered as "improvements" to the treaty, but they could kill it.

— Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat, in *The New York Times*.

Washington Post Writers Group.



## Progress, and Gorbachev's Survival, Are Up to the Senate

The media spotlight on Senate debate of the INF accord has awakened Americans, and many observers overseas as well, to the vital importance of ratification for the continuation of constructive East-West dialogue. As American students of international relations at the London School of Economics, we wish to offer our perspective.

We share the national security concerns of those at home, yet sense a broader issue at stake. Never has the moment been riper for both sides to make political capital out an admittedly limited agreement. For the climate which it fosters, as well as its arms control dimension, we feel that a swift and positive Senate response to the treaty is imperative.

The Senate should play a crucial role in the American political process by ensuring that agreements negotiated by the White House are in the best interests of the people. Its review of the INF treaty must not become a "rubber stamp" exercise. But crippling amendments would do the nation and the world a great disservice.

Lest anyone think nonratification would lead to the same tacit adherence that SALT-2 commanded, we emphasize that Mikhail Gorbachev is not Leonid Brezhnev; his political survival depends on INF's acceptance in fact, not merely in principle. Senate rejection of the treaty would destroy both Mr. Gorbachev's foreign policy and any hope of Moscow offering concrete disarmament proposals for years to come.

That we must prevent. Global political progress depends on constructive ex-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ate rejection of the SALT-2 treaty. There was opposition in committee, but the full Senate never rejected the treaty.

In January 1980, President Carter asked the Senate to defer consideration after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

ESKIL SVANE,

Montpellier, France.

## Remember the Difference

A. M. Rosenthal, in "Remember: As a Meadow Differs From a Prison Yard" (Dec. 9), speaks for America we respect and love. People in Central and Eastern Europe, and their fellow countrymen in the West, are grateful to him and to the International Herald Tribune for this timely warning. Mikhail Gorbachev's strategy — which Mr. Rosenthal detects and denounces — of seeking recognition of supposed moral equivalencies shows through clearly in the misinformation hidden among the lofty platitudes in his book "Perestroika."

S. GROCHOLSKI,  
Hamme-Mille, Belgium.

## What Nordic Static?

I find John C. Ausland's comments in "After the Summit, Shultz Might Hear Nordic Static" (Dec. 9) puzzling. He states that Norwegians ought to quit being so polite — but what are they to get worked up about? That the United States viewed the sale of high technology by the Kongsberg arms firm to the Soviet Union as a serious breach? The Norwegian government is of the same mind.

That former Prime Minister Kaare Willoch of Norway was denied the post

of NATO secretary-general? This does not seem like grounds for deep-set annoyance — disappointment yes.

That the United States is pre-positioning material in Norway to supply a marine brigade in support of Norway's defense? A touchy subject in Norway, but a move that is welcomed by the military and the government.

I find a causal relationship to be a good relationship when one of the governments must keep in mind a loud anti-NATO minority and both governments represent proud, opinionated people who would resent any type of open re-treat at the face of an ally's pressure.

ERIK INGARD HODNE,

Oslo.

## Malaysia's Print Law

Regarding the editorial "Backward in Malaysia" (Dec. 1):

It is unfortunate that The New York Times viewed the recent amendments to the Printing Presses and Publications Act of 1964 negatively. They are designed to safeguard Malaysia's political stability and continued economic development. While updating a number of provisions of the act, the amendments render it more effective. They spell out precisely the parameters in which various branches of government, the press and the public can operate unambiguously, and they protect the harmonious, and understandably delicate, fabric of the multiracial society from being subjected to provocative, misleading and incorrect information.

DATUK ISMAIL AMBIA,  
Ambassador of Malaysia.

Paris.

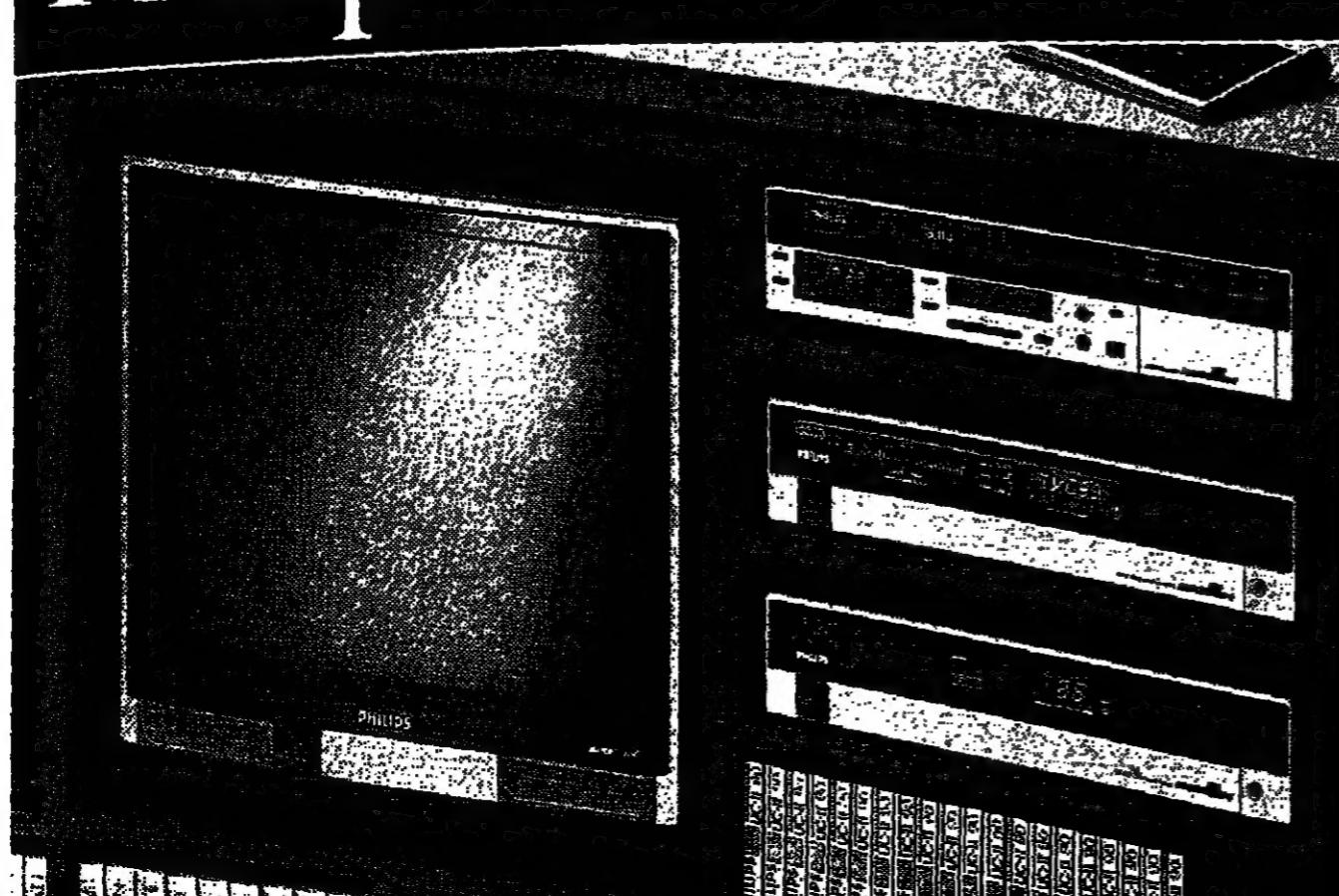
The writer, a lawyer and diplomat, is president of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

When it comes to applying new technology, Philips is right among the world leaders. Using our innovative strength to add attractive and valuable new functions, to make operation simpler and more effective, and to reach new heights in performance.

Just one of the areas in which we've applied our innovative technology is that of professional work stations, which are also going to lead the revolution in consumer electronics. With products ranging from stand alone advanced-technology personal computers, up to complete systems for office automation, banking and hotels.

Computers are a key product area for Philips, because of the potential importance of their technology in many other fields. Helping us to create the advanced new products of tomorrow.

## Philips takes video into the computing age.



For example the style-setting Matchline, which brings a complete system approach to home video, TV and audio enjoyment. Based on a choice of perfectly matched components that meet today's highest standards of picture and sound quality, as well as unmatched convenience of operation. And with a single, multi-function control centre that makes remote operation of your complete integrated audio and video system even easier than ever.

The outstanding performance and simple control of our consumer products is based directly on our leading technology in professional electronics. The technology that takes video into the computing age. Philips. The sure sign of innovation.



PHILIPS







## BUSINESS PEOPLE

## BGas in New Pact to Buy 33% of Bow

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — British Gas PLC, the giant utility, said Monday that Bow Valley Industries Ltd. of Canada had accepted its revised offer to acquire a 33 percent voting stake for \$37 million Canadian dollars (\$364.4 million) in cash.

The voting stake could rise to 51 percent through the purchase and conversion of nonvoting shares. But the conversion would require the approval of Canadian regulatory authorities.

Under the terms of the agreement, British Gas would acquire control of Bow Valley's board by spring 1988, pending shareholder approval.

Si Denis Liedtke, the chairman of British Gas, said that the accord reflected a "joint commitment to building a major energy company which will seek out and realize opportunities for growth."

British Gas, stripped of its oil interests by the British government in 1984, has sought to return to oil exploration and production since it was privatized in December 1986.

Bow Valley, one of Canada's 10 largest oil and gas exploration companies, has a 14 percent stake in the rich Brae oil fields of the central North Sea, as well as extensive oil and gas reserves in western Canada. It is based in Calgary, Alberta.

Analysts said the company's effort to make an oil acquisition had intensified since its major competitor, British Petroleum Co., started to pursue a full takeover of British PLC, a major North Sea oil and gas company with reserves concentrated near the Brae fields.

British Gas's revised agreement comes just one month after Canadian regulatory authorities rejected its July bid to acquire a 51 percent controlling interest in Bow Valley.

The original proposal, which involved a two-part payment scheme, was valued at \$1.75 billion Canadian dollars.

Under the terms of the latest offer, British Gas will pay \$20 million dollars to acquire 16 million existing common shares, or 33 percent of the equity outstanding, at 20 dollars a share.

That compares with Bow Valley's closing share price of 13.875 dollars on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Friday and a previous offer of 24 dollars a share in August.

British Gas also will buy 1.4 million new nonvoting, convertible preference shares to be issued at 18 dollars a share, injecting 517 million dollars into the company.

The stock is convertible into 20 common shares, or 20 voting preference shares, if converted into voting shares, that portion would equal another 18 percent of the voting capital of Bow Valley.

The approval of Investment Canada would be required for the conversion, which would take the holding to above 50 percent.

British Gas sources say they see the conversion option primarily as a defensive purchase. If a Canadian company were to bid for all of Bow Valley, British Gas could seek to exercise its warrants and block the bid.

(Reuters, AP)

## Support Price For BP Shares To End Jan. 6

Cabled by Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — The Bank of England said Monday it will close on Jan. 6 its offer to buy back partly-paid British Petroleum Co. shares if they trade below 70 pence (about \$1.27).

The new shares were trading just above the support price after the announcement.

Also on Monday, BP said that Kuwait had increased its stake in the oil giant to 16.6 percent, from 15.02 percent.

The Bank of England offered the safety net to investors on Oct. 29, just before the sale of the government's remaining 31.5 percent stake in BP. The flotation, which came after the collapse of world stock prices, was massively undersubscribed and BP shares traded below the issue's partly-paid price of 120 pence.

(Reuters, AP)

## Chairman Sees Closures and Mergers at Asea-Brown Boveri

By Juris Kaza  
Special to the Herald Tribune

STOCKHOLM — Asea-Brown Boveri, the Swedish-Swiss electrical and electronics group that will start operations on Jan. 1, will close at least 100 production facilities and merge several hundred others, the chairman, Percy Barnevik, said in an interview published Monday.

Analysts in Stockholm and London said they considered that the elimination of some production facilities in the new group, whose merger was announced over the summer, was inevitable.

But they said it was too early to say whether

there would be large-scale layoffs either in Scandinavia or elsewhere in Western Europe.

An analyst at a Stockholm brokerage said, "I can just say generally that this is a normal phenomenon, that to get synergy effects in a merger, you have to rationalize production."

Company officials sought to tone down the report's significance. "There are no decisions yet," said Roger Johansson, Asea's head of public relations.

He said that measures to rationalize Asea-BBC would be spread over the next two years, with the first steps to be announced sometime in 1988. He said there were about 40 business

areas and facilities in more than 100 countries to be examined.

What Mr. Barnevik had described as "factories" could include small service workshops with a handful of employees, he said.

Mr. Johansson also stressed that "this merger was part of an aggressive strategy" and indicated that the new group expected to increase market shares in the medium to long term.

The new group, with corporate headquarters in Zurich, will have combined sales of 110 billion kronor (\$18.48 billion). It will be the world's largest electrical engineering group.

## BP Brings Horton Back to London From U.S.

By Daniel F. Cuff  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Robert B. Horton, the Briton who abruptly assumed command of Standard Oil Co. for British Petroleum Co. in 1986, is returning to a BP position in London in April.

BP started the oil industry last year when it ousted its U.S. unit's American chairman and chief executive, Alton W. Whitehouse Jr., and installed Mr. Horton in an effort to revive the unit's performance at a time when oil companies were slumping.

James Ross, 49, will replace Mr. Horton as BP America's vice chairman and chief executive. He is now chief executive of BP Oil International, the company's retail marketing and crude oil trading arm.

Oil analysts said Mr. Horton, who is considered a potential chair-

man of BP, had done a good job at BP America.

"This man is slated for top positions in the parent company, and the man who polishes the brass at home becomes the admiral," one analyst said of his move back to London.

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## BOOKS

SUPERMAN AT FIFTY!  
The Persistence of a Legend!Edited by Dennis Dooley and Gary Engle.  
Illustrated. 189 pages. \$16.95. Octavia  
Press, 3546 Edison road, Cleveland, Ohio.

Reviewed by John Gross

NEXT year will witness the 50th birthday of one of the United States' most famous heroes. It was in June 1938 that Superman first made his appearance in Action Comics. Of course, he isn't really American — every schoolboy can tell you he originally came hurtling down to Earth from the planet Krypton; and June 1938 wasn't really his birthday — Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster had dreamed him up in 1934 and spent four years peddling him around the newspaper syndicates before Action Comics took him aboard. But no matter. A 50th anniversary — a jubilee, if not a birthday — is as good a time as any to take stock of a prodigy who is quite possibly the best-known character in American fiction.

Among the controversies that surround Superman, one thing is certain. If he comes from Krypton, he is also a product of Cleveland — more specifically of the Glenville area of the

city, where Siegel and Shuster first met when they were both 16 years old.

In the opening essay Dennis Dooley, one of the editors, provides a highly detailed account of life at Glenville High School, the scene of Siegel and Shuster's earliest creative efforts. In the same spirit of loving pedantry with which people once grubbed around for the supposed originals of characters in Dickens or Walter Scott, he has tracked down five girls called Lois who attended the school around 1930 on the chance that one of them might have been the inspiration for Lois Lane. (One of them was.) Dooley also considers some of the models on whom Superman and his alter ego, Clark Kent, were based. Tarzan, Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon all contributed something to Superman, and Douglas Fairbanks Sr., according to Joe Shuster, rather more. As for Clark Kent, the name Clark was naturally borrowed from Clark Gable, though the derivation of Kent — from the actor Kent Taylor — would have been somewhat harder to guess.

In the central section of the book a dozen or so essays address themselves to Superman's politics, the provenance of his cape, his debt to Nietzsche, his influence on Andy Warhol, the parallels between his exploits and those of the more wondrous medieval saints, and many other aspects of his saga. A lexicographer traces the history of the prefix super-, pointing out that terms like supermarket and superstar were already in use in the 1920s; he concludes that, far from leading the way, the Man of Steel "was actually swimming in a current teeming with such compounds."

For Joanne Connors, Superman is essentially about the battle of the sexes, and in his relationship with Lois the hero reveals an "almost pathological fear of commitment." For Jane W. Kessler, his high birth and his special powers form part of a classic Freudian "family romance." For Lester Roebuck, he is engaged in an Oedipal struggle with the deadliest of his enemies, Lex Luthor. They may well all be right.

John Gross is on the staff of The New York Times.

## Solution to Previous Puzzle

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AGRA	ACHOOC	AHAB
BAIT	STERN	NEWS
URN	OLAV	TATAS
	CIVIT	AMANOF
STEVEN	GAIT	RAB
CHOIR	PAINE	IMU
	HIFI	SABLE SCAR
END	TAROS	GOATS
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## SPORTS

## Rice Sets 2 Receiving Marks as 49ers Win

East Germany,  
Hungary to Send  
Teams to Seoul*The Associated Press*

**SAN FRANCISCO** — On the crucial catch, Jerry Rice left his defender sitting, literally. It was a fitting demonstration of the San Francisco receiver's season-long superiority.

Rice set two National Football League records Sunday and scored three touchdowns, leading the 49ers to a 35-7 victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

It was a day on which the NFL's confused playoff picture became a

## NFL ROUNDUP

bit clearer, as Denver won a place in the postseason round and Buffalo and the New York Jets dropped from contention. Still, five of the 10 playoff berths are up for grabs heading into the final week of the regular season.

For Rice, his 19th touchdown reception of the season, in the third period, broke NFL marks for most TD catches in a season and for most consecutive regular season games — 12 — with a scoring reception.

The Falcons' cornerback, Bobby Butler, fell down on the play when Rice faded going to the corner, then cut back toward the middle of the end zone. Butler got up quickly but Rice cut back to the outside and leaped up to catch a hard 20-yard spiral from Steve Young. The play gave the 49ers a 14-0 lead.

"The grass was slippery," said Butler. "My feet came out from under me. I tried to balance but couldn't. The turf was thin. I saw Rice take off and thought, 'That's it.'"

Miami's Mark Clayton had held the record for touchdown catches in a season, with 18 in 1984. Elroy (Crazy Legs) Hirsch of the Los Angeles Rams (1950-51) and Buddy Dial of the Pittsburgh Steelers (1959-60) caught touchdown passes in 11 consecutive games.

Rice made his 20th touchdown catch of the year in the fourth quarter on Young's 1-yard pass. Rice's first TD came on a 5-yard run, an end-around, in the second period.



Jerry Rice of the 49ers clutching the ball after his record-setting touchdown catch.

Courtesy of the Associated Press

**FAREWELL** — The Bears' Walter Payton in his last regular season appearance at Chicago's Soldier Field. Payton, 34, will stop playing after this season, his 13th with the Bears, who retired his No. 34 on Sunday.

Trade, Ultimatum  
Recreate a Runner  
For Rams' Charles White, Drug Arrest,  
Dickerson Deal Made All the DifferenceBy John Horn  
New York Times Service

**ANAHEIM**, California — The fingernail on Charles White's right index finger is rubble, and the wound says something about White's repeated collisions with the helmets of would-be tacklers. The faint scar on White's left wrist speaks, too, of another confrontation, but this one with police handcuffs, from White's summer arrest.

The remnants of the two injuries are emblematic of the remarkable fortunes and misfortunes that have visited the Los Angeles Rams running back this season, and they illustrate how White's career, if not his life, has been salvaged from the nadir.

That low point was on Aug. 21, when the police found White wandering alone through a field in the suburbs of Orange County, California, holding a trash can lid for "protection," and screaming incoherently after a relapse into cocaine abuse. Just four months later, however, a sober White leads the National Football League in rushing with 1,213 yards, and for the first time in his eight years as a professional, White is justifying his selection as the 1979 Heisman Trophy winner and as a 1980 first-round draft pick of the Cleveland Browns.

Although White, 29, must still submit to a daily urine test for drug use, he is also enrolled in a drug treatment program, it is his behavior on the field nowadays that is drawing closer inspection. Entering Monday night's game against the Dallas Cowboys, White had notched five consecutive games with 100 yards rushing, all of which the Rams have won. White may well exceed in this season alone his total rushing yardage, 1,378, for his six previous active seasons.

It is as unlikely a turnaround as any, considering the recurrent drug use (dating back to 1982) and White's mediocrities at Cleveland. What, then, changed the calamitous course?

White points to two specific incidents: the October trade of Eric Dickerson from the Rams to the Indianapolis Colts, giving White a starting role, and the drug arrest, giving him an ultimatum.

"There are some things that come up in your life that you have to be willing to learn from, and to make adjustments," White said last week. "I would guess that all of the things that have happened to me have happened for a reason. Maybe God just said: 'I'm tired of your doing this. I want you to be something other than what you are doing.' And boom!"

When he was arrested last summer, White was charged with being under the influence of a controlled substance. On the day before Dickerson was traded, White agreed to go into the treatment program and if he completes it successfully, the charges will be dropped.

Up to now, White has never really been able to match his gifts as an athlete with any clear degree of self-control. "Charlie had problems, all kinds of problems, in college," said John Robinson, the Rams coach, who also coached White for four years at the University of Southern California. "You had to have your finger on him all the time. He was not going to classes, and so on."

At Cleveland, he went through a cocaine treatment program in the summer of 1982 that, apparently, was not entirely successful.

"I had to take on a lot of responsibility when I was younger, playing a man at USC," White said. "And I didn't run out to be the type of person who could do that."

But he could run. At USC, White rushed for 5,598 yards (third best in National Collegiate Athletic Association history), gaining more than 100 yards 30 times and averaging 214 yards in the last six games his senior year. Yet as soon as he arrived as a rookie in Cleveland, the 5-foot-10, 195-pound (1.8-meter, 88-kilogram) White played like a flop.

"They were a passing team, and when they did run the ball, they gave it to Mike Pruitt," White said. "They were a passing team, and when they did run the ball, they gave it to Mike Pruitt."

White gained only 62 yards rushing in 13 Browns games in 1984. When he was finally placed on waivers after that season, only the Rams' Robinson had the courage to gamble, signing White as a free agent.

"If you had voted amongst a group of coaches at the time, everyone would have yawned or said it was a payback from Robinson for White's playing for him at USC," said Bruce Snyder, once the Rams' offensive backfield coach and now the head coach at the University of California-Berkeley. "White's skill certainly did not manifest itself right away. You could tell he hadn't been playing much."

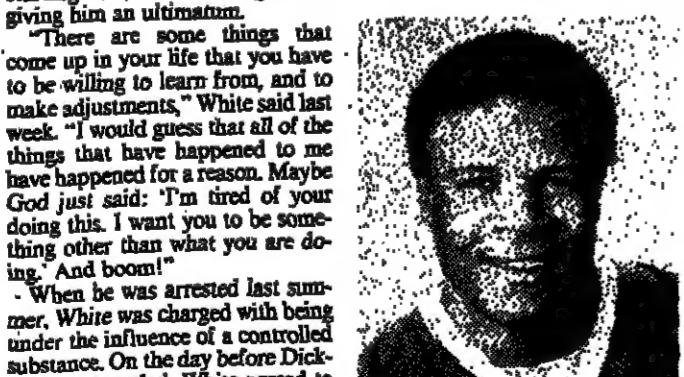
Robinson said, "I think his skills had slipped. He just wasn't able to make the moves. I think there was a loss of confidence."

Given an opportunity to play in two games when Dickerson sat out in a 1985 contract dispute, White rushed for two touchdowns and more than 220 yards. But he did little the rest of that season or in 1986.

Ken, soon after his arrest, White decided, in an act of self-rehabilitation, to cross the NFL Players Association picket line and play for the Rams' replacement team. "I was spending too much time outside of football," White said. "And, as you know, idle time is the devil's workshop."

White rushed for 339 yards in three strike games. As soon as Dickerson left town this year, White not only replaced him, but surpassed him, and now has a large lead over him in the rushing race, which even Robinson admits he finds startling. But it is not as though White imitates his predecessor. Where Dickerson coolly steers around opposing players, White brazenly meets them head-on.

"He is now such a competitive, tough player, that he almost epitomizes what we try to teach about running," said Robinson. "We think the runner should be like a fighter coming out of the corner, trying to kill the other guy, or the other 11 guys as the case may be. I've never been around any other runner who had those kinds of attitudes about running like Charlie does, and I've been around some good numbers."



Charles White

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## U.S. Yachtsmen Get Australia Apology

**SYDNEY** (Reuters) — The American team threatened to withdraw Monday from the Southern Cross Cup yachting series, but decided to remain after the Australian organizers apologized in a sail dispute.

The three-yacht U.S. team had announced it was going home after the organizers protest committee penalized one yacht, Sidewinder, for a sail measurement discrepancy. American officials, noting that only the stamping of the sail was incorrect, said they were incensed by inferences that they had deliberately set out to break cup regulations.

Arthur Cooley, commodore of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, said no allegation of cheating was intended by a club officer's remarks at the protest meeting on Sunday. "The club apologizes to the members of the United States team for any damage that may have arisen," he said.

The protest committee had found Sidewinder guilty of having an incorrect stamp on its sail when they were measured after the second race of the series on Thursday. The boat was penalized 10 percent of the points it gained in that race. The penalty demoted it to sixth place.

After Saturday's third race, the United States was fifth in the series, well behind Australia, the leader. The fourth race in the five-race series, postponed on Monday because of the controversy, will be held Tuesday.

Janet Evans Sets Women's Swimming Mark

**ORLANDO, Florida** (Reuters) — Janet Evans of the United States broke the longest-standing world record in swimming on Sunday when she clocked 4 minutes, 54.2 seconds in the women's 400-meter freestyle race.

The 16-year-old Evans, competing in the U.S. Open long course meet, bettered the 4:06.28 set Aug. 24, 1978, by Australia's Tracey Wickham.

After Saturday's third race, the United States was fifth in the series, well behind Australia, the leader. The fourth race in the five-race series, postponed on Monday because of the controversy, will be held Tuesday.

Elton John's Team Seeks New Buyer

**LONDON** (AP) — Watford soccer club was put up for sale again Monday by the rock star Elton John after the surprise withdrawal of its anticipated purchaser, the millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell.

John said last month that he was stepping down as chairman of Watford, which he had owned for 11 years, because he could no longer guarantee the team's financial future.

"He is now such a competitive, tough player, that he almost epitomizes what we try to teach about running," said Robinson. "We think the runner should be like a fighter coming out of the corner, trying to kill the other guy, or the other 11 guys as the case may be. I've never been around any other runner who had those kinds of attitudes about running like Charlie does, and I've been around some good numbers."

Watford, which had the rock star Elton John as a shareholder, has been

replaced by the English football league's management committee, which

now owns the club. The new management committee has put the club up for sale again.

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## ART BUCHWALD

## Stick to His Private Life

WASHINGTON — I hope he doesn't mind my saying so, but I think Gary Hart is campaigning the wrong way. By insisting on discussing the issues and not his private life, he is losing votes and alienating the majority of the country.

If he is serious about coming back this is what he should be saying when he holds an impromptu press conference on a cold and windy street corner in New Hampshire.

"Senator Hart, can you give us some idea how you would solve the problem of the worst budget deficit in history?"

"I will not discuss public issues publicly. The country's deficit happens to be a private matter between myself and my wife. Why don't you ask me serious questions about Donna Rice?"

"Gary, don't you think it's your duty as a candidate to reveal what you intend to do about the Star Wars program which will cost the nation billions of dollars?"

"It's nobody's business what I plan do about SDI. I will answer your questions about Bienville and Miami, but don't try to get me to tell you about my defense strategies. It has nothing to do with why I am in New Hampshire."

"Mr. Hart, don't you believe the public has a right to know where you stand on Social Security?"

"No. I am prepared to answer any questions you have on my plodding, but my thoughts as to how I feel about Social Security will remain in my bedroom."

"Senator Hart, since you got back in the race, everyone has been

talking about your position vis-à-vis farm subsidies. Are we to assume that you will back farm subsidies if you become president?"

"I never said I would back farm subsidies. This is something the media made up. My family is furious with the innuendoes you people have printed that I favor more acreage for soybeans than I do for alfalfa. Everyone makes mistakes and I have admitted mine. Now I'll be happy to take questions as to where Donna Rice slept when she came to Washington."

"Senator, I think you're trying to change the subject. We, as responsible newspaper people, want to know if you will ask for a new tariff on pig iron and steel to stop the flooding of foreign metal to these shores."

"I do not have to answer that question. Why don't you ask if there were any other women in my life besides you-who?"

"With all due respect, Senator, that is not news. Our job is to inquire about your attitude toward improving relations between the United States and Norway."

"There you go again. How would you like it if someone asked you if you had had relations with Norway? I've got to get my campaign on the track again, and you people refuse to let me do it. If you really want to be fair, why don't you print pictures of me on the Monkey Business? I'll tell you why — because it would ruin the one story you all have on your minds, which is politics."

"How can we find out where you stand on the issues if you insist they are private matters?"

"Follow me around. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead, but they will be very bored."

"Does that include day care centers, Mr. Hart?"

"I don't have to answer that question. But I will answer anything you want to ask me about my trip to Las Vegas."

"Could we talk about where you see America going?"

"When you ask me that I only become angry and defiant. Why are you all so obsessed with political trivia? The only thing the voters are interested in is what a man does in his personal life."

"It was completely decisive, the most fruitful period of my life," he said, recalling his encounters with American ethnologists, long hours logged at the New York Public Library and a little rented room in Manhattan. "Even if you follow this script, Gary, they can't lay a finger on you."

## The 'Posthumous' Lévi-Strauss

By James M. Markham  
New York Times Service

PARIS — André Malraux is dead. Jean-Paul Sartre is dead. Raymond Aron is dead. The age of France's intellectual giants is past, and it is now customary to bemoan the decline of culture and even thought in France, to rail at the tawdry ascendancy of television and the transformation of writers into entertainers.

Yet if one climbs a narrow staircase in the Collège de France, near the Panthéon on the Left Bank, one can encounter the last uncontested giant of French letters. Alert and nimble at 79, Claude Lévi-Strauss tests that he is toiling at his "posthumous works."

Lévi-Strauss fashioned a theoretical and empirical oeuvre that decoded the myths of so-called primitive peoples as attempts to explain existence; penned a literary and anthropological classic, "Tristes Tropiques," and, unintentionally, godfathers the movement known as structuralism, the search for underlying patterns of thought in all forms of human activity.

In the complexities of this century, he has become skeptical of a single thinker's ability to explain "all the great problems," and has watched the political vision of his old rival Sartre fall apart in a few years after his death.

"One does not try to be a giant," said the courtly Lévi-Strauss, who speaks in cadences of precision while a smile plays on his owlish countenance. "One tries to be a good artisan."

He does not particularly like this century, and says he would have preferred to live in the 19th century, "when someone like Victor Hugo could imagine applying his reflection to all the problems of humanity — something that has become an unattainable dream and a folly." But his researches into vanishing cultures like those of the Indians of Brazil and the United States have made him doubtful about the 19th century's most hallowed idea: progress.

"I believe one has to abandon the idea of global, massive progress that is valid for all societies," he said. "I think one can speak of progress with a little 'p,' and in the plural. In certain epochs, in certain places of the earth, certain progresses have occurred, which have probably been paid for by regression in other domains."

This is a long trajectory from the young socialist militant who in the late 1930s thought he would become a political theorist. In 1941, belatedly realizing that being Jewish put him at risk in Hitler's Europe, Lévi-Strauss fled Vichy France and found refuge in New York with other exiled European intellectuals.

"It was completely decisive, the most fruitful period of my life," he said, recalling his encounters with American ethnologists, long hours logged at the New York Public Library and a little rented room in Manhattan. "Even



Claude Lévi-Strauss at 1979 meeting of the Académie Française.

Everything I know I learned in the United States. And I adore New York, a superb city."

He had several job offers that would have permitted him to stay in the United States, but felt an irresistible tug back to France. "I belong to the Old World," he said with an apologetic sigh. "I can't help it. I feel it very strongly."

The Old World today looks less robust to him, maimed somewhat in the same manner as the fragile Indian tribes that he studied in Brazil a half century ago.

"I have the concern insofar as I mix in practical things, which is very little, to defend a certain number of values which are those of my society and which I consider to be threatened. They are threatened by the Soviet Union, by Islamic fundamentalism and by the demographic growth of the Third World."

Western industrial nations, he argued, do not have the kinds of all-embracing myths common to primitive peoples, but popular

ized versions of history partly fill the void left by the withering of religious faith.

"I think that a society cannot live without a certain number of irrational beliefs. They are protected from criticism and analysis because they are irrational."

Lévi-Strauss speculated that the very complexity of the late 20th century contributed to a "slowing down" of intellectual activity in France. But he said no society was capable of being "exceptionally productive or original in a permanent fashion."

"All over in the world," he mused, "one is seeking more than one is finding."

He called the exaggerated claims made for structuralism a distortion of ideas he once applied to linguistics.

"I believe that French society, and especially Parisian, is gluttonous," he said, "and that every five years or so it tends to stuff something new in its mouth. And so five years ago it was structuralism, and now it is something else."

"I practically don't dare use the word 'structuralist' anymore since it has been so badly deformed. I am certainly not the father of structuralism."

This refusal to be a prophet, a guru, another Sartre, is one of Lévi-Strauss' most salient traits in a France that hungers for what are called master thinkers. Pierre Bourdieu, a sociologist at the Collège de France, noted that "one of his effects has been to change the nature of the French intellectual, to propose something more modest."

When Lévi-Strauss was elected to the Académie Française in 1973, there was an outcry of protest among colleagues and students, who accused him of selling out to the establishment. But in his maiden speech to the academy, the anthropologist reminded them that, just as they respected the customs of primitive peoples so, too, they should respect those of France.

What does it mean to be a Jew in France today? The question stopped him, and a long pause ensued. "It means that one belongs to a certain intellectual climate," he finally answered. "And one knows that one runs the risk of being disputed for that reason. But I feel myself to be so profoundly French that I don't think about it willingly or clearly."

His visitor ventured that after Hitler it must mean something more than that, but he answered that he felt simply that he belonged "to a fraction of humanity on which a kind of enormous catastrophe has fallen" — but no different from another fraction of humanity that could be ravaged by a natural disaster.

History for Lévi-Strauss is whimsical and unpredictable, "progress" is uneven and certainly relative, and there is no God. His interlocutor suggested that was a pessimistic vision.

"I would say that is completely indifferent to me," he answered with a gentle smile. "I try to understand. I am not a moralist at all."

## PEOPLE

## It's Boy for Mia, Woody

Woody Allen and Mia Farrow, his longtime companion and leading lady, are the parents of a 9-pound baby boy named Satchel, born at the New York Daily News reported. The baby, born in New York Saturday, was delivered by Cesarean section, the News said. Satchel is the first child for Allen, 52, who is the legal father of two of Farrow's five adopted children. Farrow, 42, has four children of her own.

The Reverend William Simon Coffin, 63, who gained fame as a leader of protests in the 1960s, said goodbye to his congregation in a farewell sermon to more than 2,000 worshippers gathered at Riverside Church in New York. Coffin, a longtime opponent of nuclear weapons, is to become president early next year of a Washington-based disarmament group, SANE Freeze. He announced his decision to leave the interdenominational church last summer. Coffin led 1960s protests against racial segregation and the Vietnam War. He had been at the church for 10 years.

Dame Peggy Ashcroft, who won an Oscar for the movie "A Passage to India" and will be 80 today, was honored Sunday by friends and fellow actors. "Peggy will be remembered as a great, great actress at a time of great, great acting," said Sir Peter Hall, the director who cast her in "Richard III." The British rock singer Johnny Hallyday, 44, announced plans to marry the journalist Cicely Galante, the daughter of the American film star Olivia de Havilland. It will be the singer's second marriage and Galante's first. With his first wife, Sylvie Van Damme, he now has a son, Johnny, who is now a film actor in Hollywood. Hallyday also has a young daughter by the actress Nadine Baye.

A British pilot forced to make an emergency landing on a road in southern Jordan while trying to fly a microlight plane from Britain to Australia met King Hussein on Sunday. A palace spokesman said Brian Milton told the king and his son Prince Abdallah about his bid to fly the 150-kilogram (330-pound) Delight Flier from London to Darwin in 30 days. Milton said his plane, which arrived in Amman on Sunday, developed engine trouble an hour after leaving the Red Sea port of Aqaba on Saturday because of a refueling error. "The engines began sputtering and my heart was thumping," he said. "I spotted a road, circled lower and lower, and landed after waiting for a truck to pass." A Jordanian maintenance crew and medical teams flew to his rescue in military helicopters from Amman. Milton, a former journalist and hang-glider instructor from Bristol, left London's new Docklands airport on Dec. 7 to fly to Australia in 30 days.

## Painting of Nun Tops Sale

The Associated Press

BOMBAY — A painting of Mother Teresa brought the top price — 500,000 rupees (about \$38,600) — Sunday at Christie's first auction in India. The sale of 34 pieces of contemporary Indian art fetched about 1.9 million rupees.

"Senator Hart, since you got back in the race, everyone has been

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PERSONALS

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

to our dear friends far and near.

Peggy & Bill McCaffery

of Repulse Bay

May the SACRED HEART OF JESUS

be glorified, loved and pre-

served throughout the world, and never, never, never let us forget, our dear friends, the world of the helpless, pray for us. Saint Jude, help of the poor, pray for us. Say the prayer and times as by the saint, you will be rewarded. It has never been known to fail. Publicity must be promised.

AARON BEZI

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